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William Hague, the Tory leader, popped into the VIP enclosure to register his support, but gave no speech. In fact, the day was made not by speeches but by the crowd, simply turning out and sensing its strength and cohesion.

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news

significant shorts

Haughey's £1.3m secret prompts call for new inquiry

Dail Opposition parties are pressing for a new and wider inquiry into suspected large payments from businessmen to Charles Haughey, who served four terms as the Irish Prime Minister, in the wake of his belated admission that he did after all receive £1.3m in secret payments from Ben Dunne, the supermarket magnate.

Both John Bruton, the Fine Gael leader, and Dick Spring, the Labour leader, are demanding an inquiry which would go beyond the McCracken tribunal investigating donations made by Mr Dunne when he headed the family stores chain between 1983 and 1992. Fine Gael yesterday tabled down a Dail motion seeking an inquiry into "all monies paid to Mr Haughey and in particular to examine whether any such payments were made in return, or in advance, of favours sought from or offered by Mr Haughey, ministers in his Government or the Fianna Fail party" he led from 1979 to 1992. Bertie Ahern, the present Taoiseach, earlier called the Haughey funding revelation "tragic and deplorable".

Alan Murdoch

Children injured in coach crash

Eighteen children and a coach driver were taken to hospital yesterday after a crash involving three coaches carrying primary school children, police said.

The injured were thought to have suffered bruising, whiplash and shock. No one was thought to be seriously hurt. The accident happened on the A217 in Banstead, Surrey, near the Belmont Rise roundabout. Scotland Yard said, adding that the three coaches contained about 130 schoolchildren, all pupils at Cheam Park Farm Primary School, North Cheam.

Cool joke on racing favourite



John McCrick, racing presenter for Channel 4, was attacked by an ice cream wielding punter while he was broadcasting live at Newmarket yesterday. The ice cream was pushed in his face as he was relaying the odds for the feature race, the Darley July Cup. His attacker then ran off. McCrick was momentarily stunned by the assault but then wiped the cream from his eyes and continued his broadcast.

Senior pay awards to go ahead

Judges, senior military officers and higher civil servants have survived Labour's threat to stop the second phase of their pay rise being implemented later this year.

Treasury ministers have found that they cannot halt the second tranche of this year's "top people's" pay award put in place by the then Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, as they had hoped while in Opposition.

However, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has not ruled out freezing senior salaries next year and will look at the issue again in the autumn.

Young offenders' jail condemned

Conditions for young offenders are so bad at one jail that they may be breaking the United Nations minimum standards for children, according to the Chief Inspector of Prisons.

Sir David Ramsbottom also attacked the general treatment of young offenders in jail describing them as "appalling and 19th-century". His comments in a report published yesterday follow an inspection of Chelmsford jail in Essex, which houses a mixture of unconvicted and convicted young offenders aged 17 to 21, as well as adult prisoners. There are about 100 young offenders and more than 300 adults held in the prison.

Jason Bennetto

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people



Chelsea, President Clinton and King Juan Carlos admire the Alhambra Palace (Photograph: AP)

Clinton relives the memory of Spain's ultimate sunset

The documents were all signed, the security operation wound down, but Bill Clinton had one piece of business to complete before leaving Spain after this week's Nato summit: to visit Granada to show Hillary and Chelsea "the most beautiful sunset in the world".

As dusk fell, the US President stood with his wife and daughter to watch the last rays of the sun glow on the snowy peaks of the Sierra Nevada, turning the city violet and making the ancient Moorish Alhambra palace appear suspended in the air.

He had first visited the city 29 years ago, during his time as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, and had been so stunned by its beauty that he resolved one day to return. This week, his wish was fulfilled.

"It was the same time in the evening, the same light, the same colours. Everything is the same, exactly as I remember it," said Mr Clinton, and added, with a little nostalgic half-smile: "Except me: I'm older." To journalists who tried to ask him questions, he said: "Don't work today - just watch."

The presidential party was whisked south in a US Air Force DC-9, and King Juan Carlos, Queen Sofia and their son, Prince Felipe, accompanied the Clinton entourage on a tour of the Alhambra and a swift Andalusian supper. Their visit lasted barely four hours, but the city had been subject to security measures for nearly a week. Tourists were turned away on a picture-perfect day, sunny and hot, as the palace was closed to the public.

Hundreds of people lined the highways as the 20-plus cars in the presidential motorcade drove past olive groves with spectacular views of the snowcapped mountains on its way to the hilltop palace.

Inside the palace, Mr Clinton walked the marble floors where the Arab rulers of Granada held court amid bubbling fountains, cool reflecting pools and intricate artwork which make the Alhambra the greatest surviving jewel of Islamic civil architecture.

Prince Felipe accompanied Chelsea, who had joined her parents in Spain at the end of a European tour that followed her high school graduation, along with a friend, Nikki Davison.

There seemed little danger that Mr Clinton would forget such a trip - which he had specially requested to round off his summit - but just to make sure, the Mayor of Granada presented him with the keys of the city and a watercolour by a distinguished local artist of the view that had first captivated him in his student days.

Parts of the Alhambra date back to as far as the 9th Century, but it was built mainly between 1238 and 1358 when the Moors controlled much of what is now Spain.

With the Alhambra as its seat of government, Granada became the last Arab region to fall to Spain when King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella ended 500 years of Moorish rule in 1492.

Elizabeth Nash, Madrid

briefing

HEALTH

Children's intensive care to be reorganised in NHS

Children's intensive care units are to be reduced by up to half, to create fewer, larger centres, providing a higher quality of care, Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, announced yesterday. Units with fewer than about six beds will be merged in specialist centres staffed by doctors and nurses with experience in treating critically ill children.

No extra beds are to be provided in isolated units, and the care of critically ill children on general hospital wards should cease within a year, Mr Dobson said.

Under guidelines laid out in a report, *Paediatric Intensive Care: A Framework for the Future*, published today, the 280 children's intensive care beds in England will be centralised in about half the current 30 units. An extra £5m is to be provided over the next 12 months to implement the changes.

The plans - which follow complaints that hospitals were repeatedly turning away children because of a shortage of beds - will raise fears that patients will be put at risk by longer travelling times. Any delay in admission can jeopardise recovery.

Mr Dobson, who is to launch the report in Leeds today, said the establishment of lead centres in every area of the country would ensure that the 12,000 children who are seriously injured in accidents or fall critically ill have the best chance of recovery.

Retrieval teams of doctors and nurses trained in intensive care will accompany children transferred by ambulance from referring hospitals.

The National Co-ordinating Group on Paediatric Intensive Care, which produced the report, was set up by the health department last year after an inquiry into the death from a brain haemorrhage of ten year old Nicholas Geldard from Stockport, who was ferried between three hospitals in search of a bed.

Although the report does not specify a minimum number of beds for each unit, it says they must be of a sufficient size to sustain highly qualified full-time staff, working exclusively in intensive care. Each bed costs £250,000 a year to run.

Jeremy Laurence

NATURE

On the prickles of a dilemma

The old joke is true. Porcupines do it carefully - select a mate, that is - according to a report today. Research has shown that female porcupines go for the biggest, spiniest males, which have to prove their worthiness by fighting their rivals.

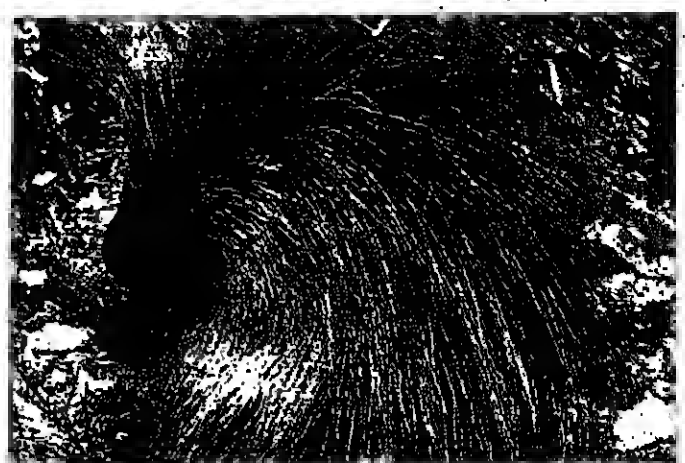
Scientists from the University of California at Davis have been studying the creatures in Nevada for five years. They believe that impressing females may have been as important a driving force in the evolution of porcupine quills as self defence.

It is suggested that female porcupines may opt for males who are the best fighters.

The researchers found that the male guards the female for three days, waiting for her to become sexually receptive. During this time the female makes cat-like calls, apparently designed to invite competition from other males.

Fights inevitably follow, during which males bite each other and slap each other with their muscular tails encrusted with small, sharp quills.

Researcher Rick Switzer told *New Scientist*: "After a fight the loser can have anywhere between 30 to 50 quills stuck in his face and chest. It must be extremely painful." However, during sex the females were extremely cautious, and only rarely got spiked.



UNIVERSITIES

Higher education boosts economy

Universities provide Britain with big bucks as well as brains, says a report commissioned by vice-chancellors. A study published yesterday, just a fortnight before the Dealing Committee publishes its conclusions on the future of higher education, highlights universities' contribution to the UK economy.

Though universities receive some £9bn annually in public funding for education and research, the higher education sector now generates business worth over £43bn a year, according to the report.

In total, universities provide jobs either directly or indirectly for more than 3 per cent of the total workforce. In 1995-6, higher education had an estimated international balance of trade surplus of £1.3bn, while the economy as a whole had a deficit of £5.5bn.

Vice-chancellors hope the study, *The Impact of Universities and Colleges on the UK Economy*, will help counter impressions of higher education as a perpetually cash-hungry sector and demonstrate how universities provide value for money. Lucy Ward

SOCIETY

Racist attitudes persist at work

A telephone hotline for people suffering racism at work was expected to hear from just a handful of people brave enough to call. In fact nearly 100 people phoned the line set up by the Trades Union Congress, some in a desperate state, telling of both subtle and overt abuse.

The results from the hotline, although limited, have created a worrying snapshot image of racism in the workplace. The TUC is now calling on employers to beef up their equal opportunities programmes in a bid to stamp out such abuse.

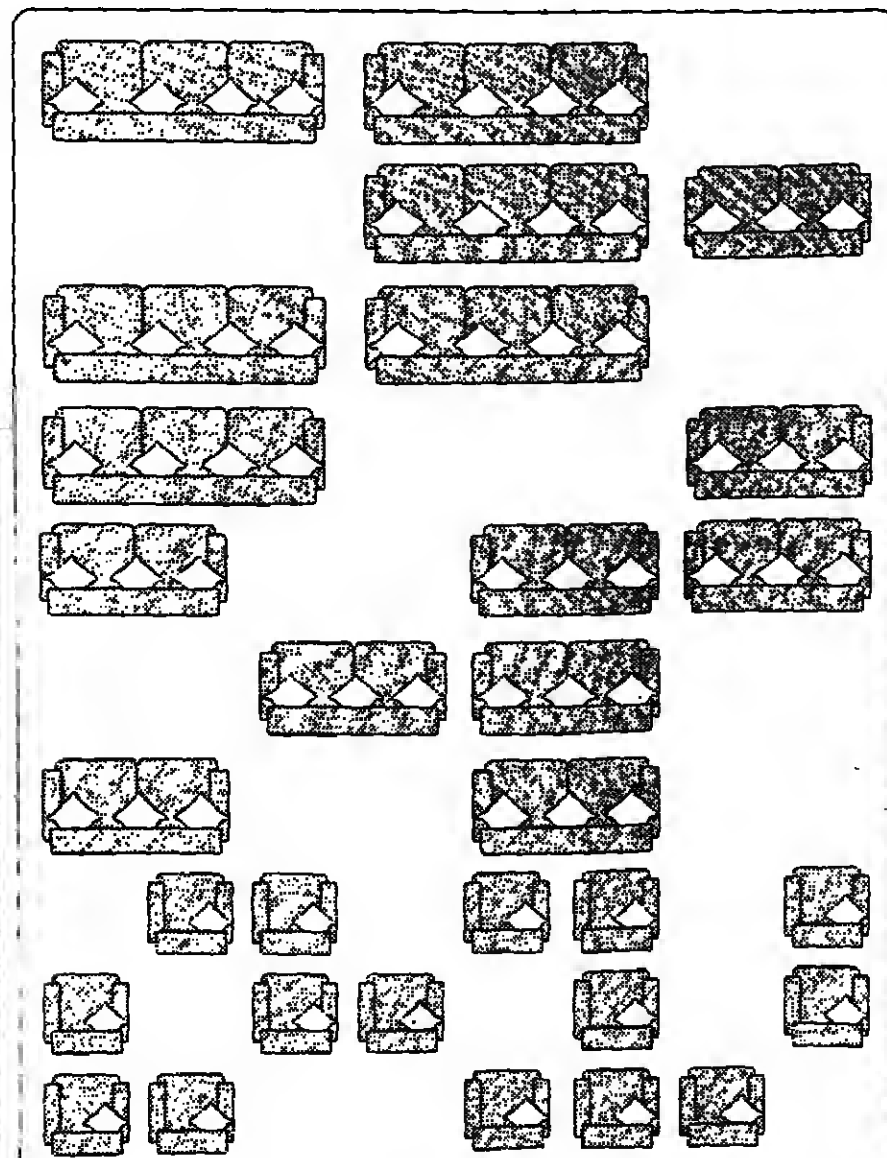
A report released today reveals that the callers' main complaints were excess discipline, lack of promotion and unfair overtime allocation.

As many as 14 per cent of callers said they were more likely to be disciplined than their white colleagues. 12 per cent said they were regularly overlooked for promotion while better jobs were being given to white workers with fewer qualifications and/or less service, and a further 12 per cent said overtime was allocated on the basis of race with white workers getting more overtime opportunity than blacks.

However, if most concern was the large number of callers who said they were the subject of direct racist abuse, and that when they complained to their bosses they were often told it was their fault and that they needed to make more of an effort to "fit in".

Matthew Brace

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HEAL'S

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Fairytale romance that began with a cunning illusion

It was billed as a fairytale romance between one of the most beautiful women in the world and the cleverest magician on Earth.

She came to see one of his shows and he plucked her out of the audience at random to assist with one of his illusions. Within weeks, Claudia Schiffer and David Copperfield were an item. They were pictured holding hands in the most glittering spots in Europe, her left hand heavy with a sparkling diamond.

But as with all illusions, the reality is somewhat different. It would now appear that Ms Schiffer was, in fact, paid the sum of £12,500 to be pulled out of the audience.

The French magazine *Paris Match* claims that the meeting was a carefully calculated stunt, to boost Ms Schiffer's profile in the US and Copperfield's career in Europe.

"It was just a plot to dupe their loyal fans, and we've got the contracts to prove it," said the magazine.

Paris Match has published letters between the couple's agents to set up their first meeting at a show in Berlin in 1993.

"David seemed to pick Claudia out of the audience at random, but it was in



fact the first step in a devious and incredibly detailed plan," said the magazine.

"Claudia was paid £12,500 to be there and her first class tickets to Berlin, hotel suite, Mercedes limo and bodyguard were all paid for by David's PFI company," it added.

The details of the contract were to have remained secret.

But there should be a happy ending to every fairytale, and this one turned out to be no exception. Their meeting may have been carefully planned but the couple really did fall in love and are now househunting.

Kate Watson-Smyth

First woman director for Royal Society

The Royal Society of Arts has appointed the first woman director in its 243-year history. Penny Egan, currently the RSA's programme development director, will take over next January, following the retirement of the current acting director, James Sanderson.

Mrs Egan, 46, joined the RSA 11 years ago as lecture secretary in charge of developing the Society's annual lecture programme.

"I am very grateful to the Society for originally employing me on a part-time basis when my children were young. I was able to be a mother and hold down a career at the same time. I have proved it is possible to do both jobs at once, and be successful," she said yesterday.

Since graduating from Leicester University, Mrs Egan has worked in arts administration and publicity at the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Crafts Council.

In 1992 she took on responsibility for the Society's arts programme and initiated the arts advocacy programme, "The Arts Matter". In 1996 she administered the development of RSA projects including the current "Redefining Work" Programme.

Mrs Egan is proud of the RSA's continuous commitment to women's issues. "There have been women Fellows in the society since 1754 and the RSA has always recognised that we have a major role to play in the arts and business. Until now, no one was ready to see women as figures of authority and women were not coming through to these positions."

"The RSA is a unique organisation: independent, apolitical, multidisciplinary and with a Fellowship of over 21,000 it has the capacity to wield huge influence. My mission as Director will be to tell people what the RSA is and what we do."

Rachel Woollett

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Portraits that tell their own story



'I'd rather be thought of through what I'd written'
Alan Bennett

David Lister
Arts News Editor

The novelist PD James enjoyed it because she could sit and plot her next book. John Mortimer, creator of Rumpole, found it "absolute agony" because he still fondly believes he looks 19 years old.

The agony and ecstasy of having your portrait painted is described in a series of revealing interviews with celebrities carried out by the National Portrait Gallery.

The taped comments of the artists and their subjects will form part of a new sound guide to the gallery's collection which is being introduced next week.

It is not just the subjects of the portraits but also the artists who give the unique insights into the business of portrait painting. But it is the sitters who have their self-delusions most cruelly punctured.

John Mortimer found himself in a freezing studio with a painter "who wouldn't allow me to either read or talk to him, perched on this sort of pile of furniture with an inadequate sort of electric fire.

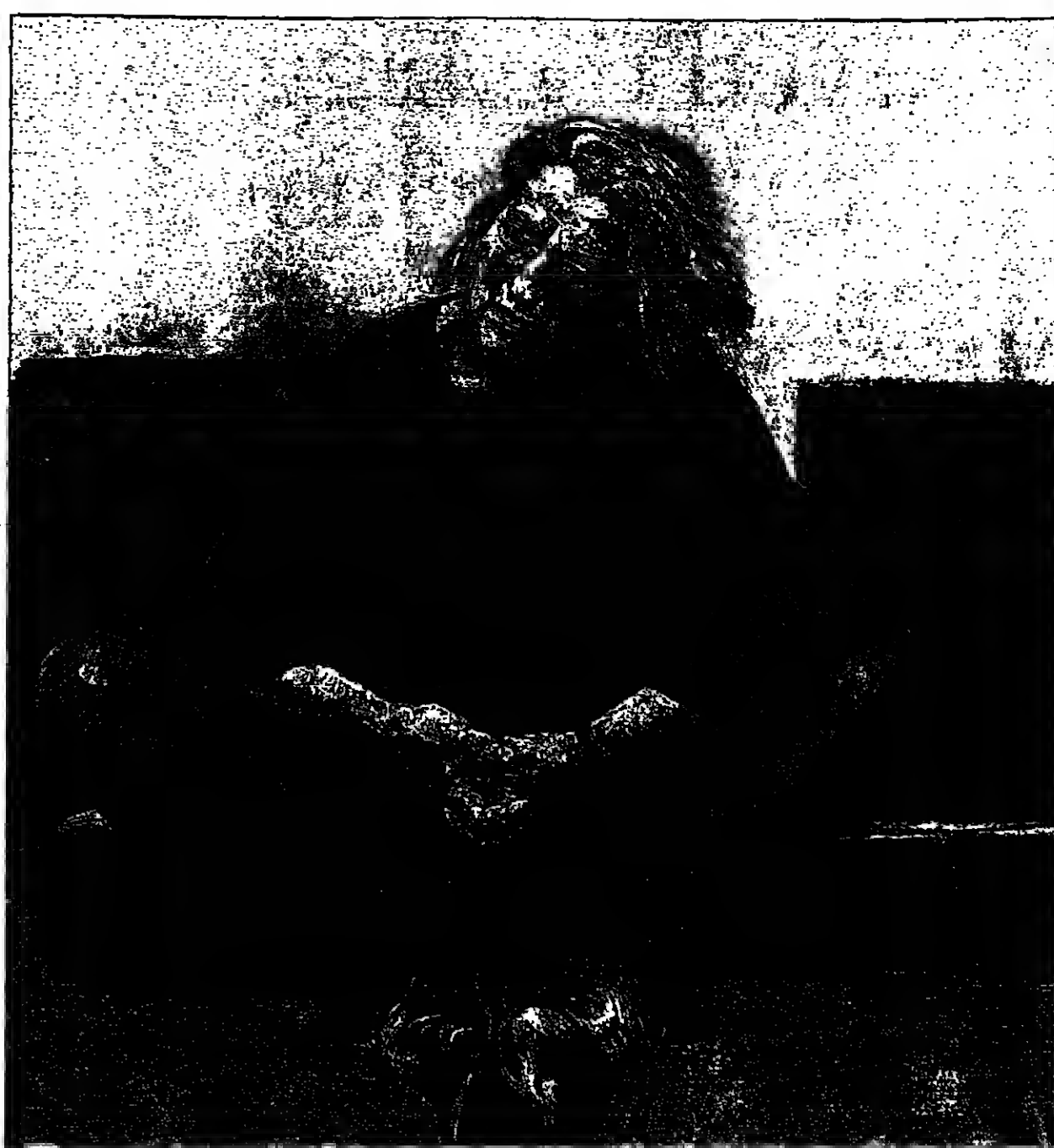
"And the only happy result of it was that we were able to use that place as a scene for a very unpleasant murder in a Rumpole story."

Of the portrait itself, Mortimer adds: "I find it very difficult to talk about because I avoid looking at myself in mirrors and I shave in the bath without a mirror and I only know that I've cut myself when the bath water goes pink. I have very little idea of what I look like. I imagine I look 19 and very thin and handsome, so the picture came as a bit of a shock to me."

Tai Shen, who painted him, also had a difficult experience, explaining: "It took forever. I think the head took about two months. I had to endlessly scrape it down and start again."

It took a while too for the great figurative artist Paula Rego to paint Germaine Greer.

The two of them listened to the whole of Wagner's Ring cycle during the six sittings. Ms Greer says of the result: "I think it's a wonderful picture. I know it doesn't make me look particularly good-looking,



'It's got this incredible flicker about it of energy which is her energy' *Germaine Greer on Paula Rego*

but I'm not good-looking so that's all right... "I think it looks like a portrait of intelligence. It's got this incredible flicker about it of energy which is her energy more

than mine. But my image is invested with her power and her concentration." Ms Rego remembers: "Very slowly, I held my breath and then, slowly, I began to do the

corner of her face, the pencil, pastel, crawled down the side of her face picking up the resemblance as it went along. It was like a fishing-net trapping the face."

Sir Bobby Charlton desired neither power nor a fishing net, but had a hankering to wear his football kit. However, it was eventually decided he was too old and should settle for a track



'I think there is a great intensity about my gaze'
PD James

suit. Stephen Hawking, the scientist and motor neurone disease sufferer, was asked by painter Yolanda Sonnabend to remove his glasses.

She says: "There was this lightness about him. A lightness and a clarity, and of course somebody whose mind knows no frontiers. So it was really getting an expression and I took his spectacles off, because of these wonderful piercing blue eyes, almost like a child actually..."

PD James would think about the plot of her next crime thriller during her sittings.

She says now, using the language of the thriller writer: "I think it's slightly sinister, yes. And there is a great intensity about it. I think there is an intensity about my gaze."

"You do feel that things are happening beyond that door, a sense really of menace in the air."

The painter Maggi Hambling gave her self-portrait three arms and three hands "one for everything you need as an artist. I mean one for the brush, one for the cigarette and one for the drink."

But for Alan Bennett the whole process was torture. "I'd rather be thought of through what I'd written, rather than through my own physical presence," he says, "because I think it's such a dismal physical presence most of the time."

It was Bennett who addressed the question of portrait painting definitively in his fictional dialogue between The Queen and Sir Anthony Blunt, her surveyor of pictures in his play *A Question of Retribution*.

Blunt assures her that portrait painters "are seldom standard bearers of the avant garde Ma'am."

She responds: "They would hardly be painting me if they were. One doesn't want two noses."

"Mind you, that would make one no more unrecognisable than some of their efforts. No resemblance at all. Sometimes I think it would be simpler to send round to Scotland Yard for an identikit. Still I can understand it when they get me wrong, but some of them get the horse wrong too. That's unforgivable."

Career on track with railway degree

Esther Leach

The first graduate in railway studies yesterday shrugged off the notion that train enthusiasts were "sad anoraks".

Philip Butterworth, 31, who has gained an MA from the Institute of Railway Studies at York University, said he was romantic about railways and rail travel.

It was his passion which took him away from his home in Sydney, Australia, for two years to study the running of railway workshops in Swindon for his degree.

"I have a love for trains, especially steam locomotives," he said, as he sat in the management centre of York station. "I like the idea of something massive such as a steam locomotive moving through the landscape."

He added: "I'm interested in the social and cultural history of railways and how railway workshops of the 19th century operated. At one time there were more than 14,000 people working at Swindon."

He said he there were lessons to learn from the way people with so many different skills worked closely together as a team.



The graduate: Philip Butterworth at York station yesterday. Photograph: John Houlton/Guzzell

Mr Butterworth, who discovered the degree course in 1995 in the small ads columns of a railway fan magazine, admitted to standing at the end of platforms watching trains come and go, although he said he did not actually take numbers.

He acknowledged the "sad" reputation which seems to haunt train spotters and railway enthusiasts and laughed as he added: "Yes, I do have an anorak. I think train spotters have an image problem, but they do an important job,

recording details of trains today. They provide an independent record which is invaluable, especially if official records were somehow destroyed or failed."

Mr Butterworth plans to return to Australia to study for a PhD at New South Wales University before launching a career in lecturing about railways.

Professor Colin Divall, head of the Institute of Railway Studies, said he was delighted Mr Butterworth had succeeded in his studies.

"He wanted to do the course so much he moved over to England and threw himself into the work. I hope he is the first of many IRS graduates, in fact we are recruiting students now for an October term start," said Professor Divall.

Nine other students have also passed their Certificate in Railway Studies after a two-year part-time course.

The degree course is a joint venture between the IRS, the York Railway Museum and York University.

Archers face up to six-day week

Paul McCann

Eddie Grundy, the laziest man in the English countryside, may find he has more than a new dairy parlour to get up and running if Radio 4 bosses get their way.

The fictitious Eddie, whose indolence almost cost him his farm on *The Archers* earlier this year, will find himself working six days a week if a plan by James Boyle, controller of Radio 4, to add another episode to

the radio soap is approved. Mr Boyle, who joined Radio 4 last year, is at present conducting a review of all of the station's output and is reported to be considering putting the extra episode on at weekends.

This comes on top of previous plans to extend *The Archers* omnibus edition on Sundays so it can at last re-play all of the previous week's episodes.

If it is a sop to farmers who have been outraged by Mr Boyle's leaked plans to scrap

Farming Today, it may not work. The everyday tale of farming folk may have started off as an attempt to get farmers to grow more food, but its three million listeners a week are now more likely to live in cities.

An extension of *The Archers* would follow the pattern followed by television in recent years where schedulers have sought to boost listeners by adding extra episodes of *Coronation Street*, *Emmerdale* and *EastEnders*.

If true it also seems to illustrate that Mr Boyle is following a policy of "more of a good thing" to bring the station to more listeners. He has proposed extending Radio 4's other most popular programme *Today*, which is why *Farming Today* may go.

There has also been talk of Mr Boyle being really radical and extending *Today* all the way through to lunch time as an "umbrella" strand over other programmes.



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news



No relation: Neanderthal Man's distinct facial characteristics. Above right: In a family group. Photographs: Natural History Museum

How modern man won the biggest battle for his life

Kathy Marks

Despite evidence to the contrary in rugby clubs and City wine bars, modern humans are not descended from Neanderthal Man, according to scientific research published today.

With his stocky build, sloping forehead and massive beetle brows, this primitive hominid never appeared the most attractive of ancestors. Now the first analysis of DNA material from a Neanderthal skeleton provides powerful evidence that he was part of a separate evolutionary branch.

The results are a considerable boost to the anthropological theory that human beings originated in Africa about 200,000 years ago and then colonised Asia and Europe, displacing other species. But they will infuriate proponents of the rival hypothesis, that our forefathers left Africa about two million years ago and migrated to other continents, where they evolved into *Homo Sapiens*. Heated and at times vitriolic debate has raged between the two camps for the past decade.

The research, which is published in the American science journal *Cell* was carried out by a team at the University of Munich's Zoological Institute. Their subject was a skeleton fossil discovered in the Neander Valley, near Düsseldorf, in 1856, and regarded as the prototype Neanderthal specimen. The



scientists took a tiny fragment of bone from the fossil, which is estimated to be between 30,000 and 100,000 years old. For the first time, they performed the highly difficult task of retrieving a genetic sample from an extinct species. The DNA that they analysed was so different from that of modern humans that any direct link between us and Neanderthal Man appears to be ruled out.

Professor Svante Paabo, head of the Munich team, told a press conference in London yesterday that although the two hominids co-existed in Europe and the Middle East for a period, their last common ancestor probably dated from more than half a million years ago. While

the precursors of modern humans thrived and flourished, Neanderthal Man evolved separately, reaching an evolutionary dead-end about 30,000 years ago. "The results clearly lend support to the theory that we all came out of Africa quite recently in history," said Professor Paabo.

Chris Stringer, of the Natural History Museum, one of the world's leading palaeontologists, hailed the work of the Munich scientists as a *tour de force*. "In palaeontological terms, this is the equivalent of landing the Pathfinder on Mars and getting it to work," he said. "The Neanderthals were very human-like, but that does not make them our ancestors."



Survival of the fittest: Although Neanderthals and *Homo Sapiens* co-existed, a direct link appears to be ruled out

Straw seeks quick way to sack corrupt police officers

Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

The Government is examining ways of improving the scrutiny and punishment of dishonest police officers. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, confirmed yesterday.

It is understood that he is sympathetic towards chief constables' pleas for a less rigorous requirement in the level of proof for an officer to

be dismissed. Mr Straw's comments follow an interview in *The Independent* in which Edward Crew, the Chief Constable of West Midlands police, revealed that he knew of corrupt police officers in his force but was powerless to dismiss them because of protective practices. He said: "There are people working in this force that wouldn't be employed by Sainsbury's... I have officers in this force who should not be serving police

officers. If we were assessing their standards of behaviour to the standard required of other employers, these people would not be working."

The Home Office confirmed yesterday that it was carrying out a review of the procedures. Mr Straw said: "Corrupt officers have no place in a modern and accountable police service. It is crucial that we have a police discipline system which has the confidence and support of the public

and which, at the same time, protects police officers from malicious accusations. I am carefully considering the representations I have had from the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo), the Police Federation and other interested parties about changes to police disciplinary procedures."

Mr Straw has also expressed concern at the number of police officers taking early retirement on medical

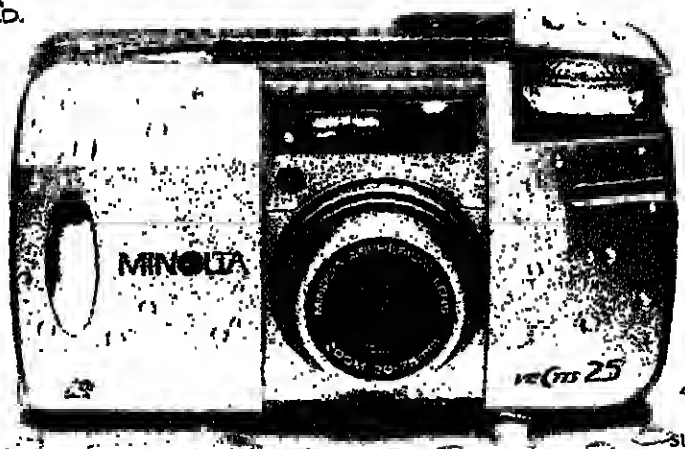
grounds while under investigation.

Police chiefs in England and Wales want the standard of proof that an officer is guilty of corruption or gross incompetence to be made less onerous than "beyond reasonable doubt". Civil cases, industrial tribunals and disciplinary hearings involving police officers in Scotland all use the lesser standard of "balance of probability". Where there is evidence of gross malpractice, they

also want the power of instant dismissal.

Paul Whitehouse, Chief Constable of Sussex, and Acpo spokesman, said the proposal was intended to make it easier for senior officers to address all forms of police misbehaviour. "We should be able to deal effectively with the very small number of officers who do not come up to the high standards required."

The independent Police Complaints Authority has backed calls for change. But the Police Federation, which represents rank-and-file officers, bitterly condemned the move. Its vice-chairman Ian Westwood accused Acpo of using the election of the new Government to reopen the issue having previously declared itself satisfied with the regulations. "We are furious. We believe that it is at best opportunistic and at worst bad faith," he said.



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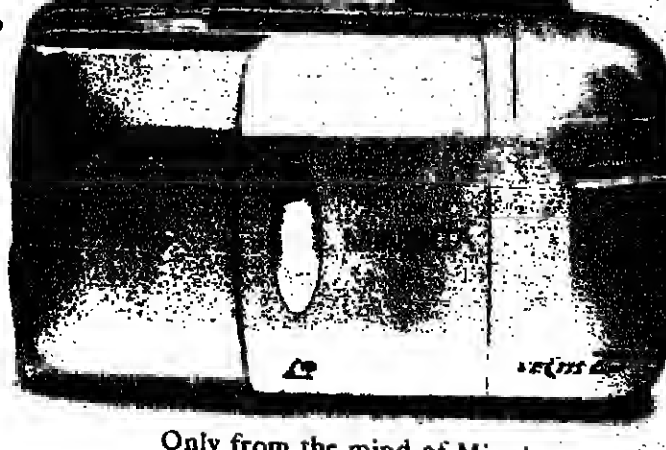


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The fairer sex takes a swing for golfing equality

Rigid attitudes have kept Britain's golf clubs a male preserve. Jojo Moyes reports

On the pleasant green fairways of Langley Park Golf Club in Beckenham, Kent, the ladies agreed: *Coronation Street's* ratings must be going down. Why else would the actor Johnny Briggs, better known as the chauvinist Mike Baldwin, opine in a magazine that women golfers were "an abomination ... take liberties, don't know the rules ... and take over everything like cockroaches".

"You can't take it seriously," said Margaret Hitchens, who has played golf for 10 years. "We know that attitude exists - there's probably one of them in every club - but it says more about him than it does about women golfers." Her friend, 23-year-old Michelle Donovan, who plays off 17 after just two years, agreed. "I laughed when I saw it. I wouldn't take him seriously for a minute. I think they're very sad." She added: "It's very much an age thing as well. Some of these men just feel threatened."

But some of them don't need to. Whatever Mr Briggs' feelings, Britain's golf clubs are still overwhelmingly a male preserve, according to players. They may agree with equality in theory, but practice was quite another matter.

Michael Lunt, secretary of the 1,300-member Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Course in Richmond, southwest London, was keen to stress the admirable qualities of its 350 lady members. "By and large ladies behave extremely well on the course, equally as well as men if not better," he affirmed. But this did not necessarily mean they got equal access to



Par for the course: Kent golfer Michelle Donovan laughed at the sexist comments made about women golfers by the *Coronation Street* actor Johnny Briggs (below). Photograph: David Rose



from. One golfing association had told her she couldn't join "as they didn't give women's prizes". "I said 'what do you give, balls?'"

She said things have changed, but painfully slowly. Part of the problem is the self-perpetuating nature of the clubs. "There are a lot of men in golf clubs who have very rigid attitudes and unfortunately golf clubs attract these sorts of people. They reinforce each other by including people who join the club who think as they think. They don't invite radicals."

The other problem is the women themselves. "The problem is that a lot of them won't make a fuss. The club is their life and their husband is probably paying the subscription. If they rock the boat he gets it, you know. 'What's your wife doing creating trouble?'"

his course. "They don't have equal access. They're not allowed in the men's bar, there's a mixed bar. Otherwise they have pretty well equal rights. There are some restrictions on one of the courses which they can't play on, but in my opinion considering they pay two-

thirds of what men pay here they get the best deal on any course," he said. "I know some people would like to vote on club matters at the AGM but there are others that are happy with the status quo. They run their own operation in fact." So significant numbers of women didn't want to

change things? "I wouldn't know if significant numbers wanted to change things."

According to Liz Kahn, a golf writer and author of *The LPGA: The unauthorised version*, the Royal Mid-Surrey is far from unusual. "In most clubs in the country most women

don't have the vote, don't have access to all the bars, they don't pay the same subscription - even if they want to - and they are restricted at weekends. A lot of these clubs seem to work on the basis that women will play on weekdays after they've done the housework," she said.

On the Continent, she said, clubs were completely mixed and equal - "they can't believe what goes on here." Mrs Kahn, who has been writing on golf for nearly 30 years, said she was known as "the Suffragette" on account of the number of men-only areas she had been "removed"

Second wave set to join BA stoppage

Barrie Clement and Randeep Ramesh

British Airways last night faced the prospect of further stoppages by 9,000 ground staff after a second day of action by cabin crew caused severe disruption to flights at Heathrow and Gatwick.

Although the airline claimed that it had managed to get 20 per cent more flights into the air from Heathrow, that still only saw 69 services operating - a paltry chunk of the 200-plus take-offs in the timetable.

Amid the chaos of the three-day strike by stewards and stewardesses, leaders of BA's airport workers were also considering whether to set the date for the first of a series of walk-outs in protest at the sell-off of the airline's catering division.

Union sources said the 1,400 workers - also with the Transport & General Workers Union - directly affected by the planned sale had thrown out fresh proposals from management giving additional guarantees about their terms and conditions after the division is sold off.

Although BA has trained managers to take over the duties of ground staff and recruited alternative personnel to service aeroplanes, industrial action by a second group of em-

ployees would cause far worse disruption. BA has already been forced into hiring aircraft, replete with crews to staff key services.

Operations manager Michael Street said that BA had chartered seven aircraft, complete with crews, to help combat the strike - and would have brought in more if they could have done.

George Ryde, the union's national officer for the civil aviation industry, was "surprised" over BA's decision to lease seven planes yesterday.

"Many of their own aircraft have been left unused because of the strike. The only reason for leasing others would be for their cabin crew," Mr Ryde said.

The airline claimed that more staff turned up for work and 20 per cent more flights got away than Wednesday.

However, the number of stewards and stewardesses phoning in sick increased to 1,700, leading to cancellations at Heathrow and Gatwick.

BA also warned that flights would continue to be hit after the end of the strike on Saturday morning.

Executives said they had run all the services they had planned yesterday and hoped to increase flights by 20 per cent again today.

They pointed out that the airline had managed to get five domestic services off the ground and increase the number of long-haul flights from Heathrow from 22 on Wednesday to 25 yesterday.

The TGWU, which represents the cabin crew, pointed out that the same proportion of Heathrow flights were grounded yesterday as on Wednesday.

Behind the scenes, the Acas conciliation service kept in contact with both sides in an attempt to solve the cabin-crew dispute, which centres on the imposition of a pay package.

Management continued to hint privately that it might be prepared to consider union proposals to save £42m, but the union was sceptical about the seriousness of their intentions.

The union believes the company wants to be seen as "doing something" to resolve the conflict before its annual general meeting next Tuesday.

Company sources, however, said that they were serious about seeking a solution and that the union had so far been obstructive.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, took the "very exceptional step" of writing to the airline's non-executive directors, urging them to use their influence to encourage substantive negotiations.

'His message was clear: come back or face the sack'

British Airways has reportedly denied staff and union claims that they had been "bullied" or "intimidated". A senior stewardess, fearful of being dismissed, gives her reply anonymously:

"I have been a stewardess for more than a decade. Let me say I was very proud of working for British Airways. But recent events have made me think again. The manner in which I and many of my friends have been treated is nothing short of disgusting."

Last Saturday I was called at home by a manager. It was a very threatening, intimidating conversation. I was asked whether I would be reporting to work on Wednesday this week. I said no. Things turned nasty. I was asked whether I realised I could lose my job. I was told I could be sued for financial loss to the company.

I had been watching the women's championship at



Frightened striker: Once proud, now disgusted

Wimbledon. Although I saw the rest of the match, I could not remember a stroke. His message was clear: come back or face the sack.

Many of my friends in BA have sought medical help. The stress of dealing with managers has made them ill. I feel sick just thinking about the tactics that I, and others, have had to endure. There are few crew who, thanks to the management style, have a good word for Mr Ayling.

Staff have all received letters which are designed to scare. These tell those staff on strike they will get no promotion until the year 2000, will not be paid any basic pay until BA obtains "full value for services", and lose staff travel concessions until the end of March 2000. Members on strike will have letters "placed on file".

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politics

RUC chief calls for restraint on Twelfth

David McKillick
Ireland Correspondent

A flurry of meetings took place in Belfast and Derry yesterday in attempts to avoid confrontation at tomorrow's controversial Twelfth of July Orange parades in the two cities.

In an unusual move, RUC chief Constable, visited the Orange Order's headquarters in Belfast for discussions on the parade scheduled to pass through the Catholic Lower Ormeau district of the city.

His visit was seen as an indication of the seriousness of concerns that trouble could flare in the area in the wake of last weekend's Drumcree march, which generated widespread nationalist anger. Mr Flanagan said: "This was one of a whole series of ongoing meetings to discuss aspects of Saturday's parades. Everyone of any influence whatever should do all that they can to urge restraint."

Among those involved in the talks was Lord Molyneux, the former leader of the Ulster Unionist Party. In the Lower Ormeau, meanwhile, Canon Peter McCann said there was

"terrible anxiety" since Catholics believed the authorities intended to force the parade through the area.

In Derry, several dozen representatives of political parties, community groups and the churches attended a meeting convened by Martin Bradley, the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party mayor, aimed at reaching agreement on Saturday's march. But representatives of the Orange Order and the Unionist parties did not take part, so no formal accommodation has yet emerged. Mr Bradley said no more meetings were planned, but his door remained open for face-to-face talks.

"We will still try to hope the Orange Order comes forward and offer some solutions, but we just don't know," he said.

But Alan Lindsay, the city's Orange grand master, dampened hopes that he would meet the mayor, and said the group still planned to press ahead with the parade despite the threat of violence.

The Catholic Bishop of Derry, Bishop Seamus Hegarty, appealed for calm and asked everyone to refrain from acts of violence or inflammatory



Tension rising: A heavy police and military presence is building on the streets of Belfast

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

words which could inflame the present tense situation. His advice was, however, instantly spurned by loyalist and republican paramilitaries. The Irish National Liberation Army warned parents to be careful with their children, declaring: "In the days to come, our units may be called upon

to actively engage loyalist and crown forces gunmen. It is imperative that no civilians are endangered or hamper these operations."

The loyalist Ulster Freedom Fighters, meanwhile, warned republicans to desist from attacks on Protestant areas, saying there had been attacks on

families and businesses and on Orange halls. The UFF said it would "protect loyalist areas from republican aggression." A loyalist died earlier this week when a UFF bomb exploded prematurely in South Belfast.

A 14-year-old West Belfast boy hit by a plastic bullet on Sunday night was

improving slightly today after being moved out of intensive care. Meanwhile, a Shankill teenager, Craig McCann, who was shot in the shoulder by a gunman near Belfast's "peace line" on the same night, was progressing well at Belfast City Hospital.

Labour MEPs reject rule change

Ian Burrell

Labour members of the European Parliament have rejected attempts by the party's Millbank headquarters to impose a new code of discipline to limit them in criticising party policy.

The new code, which had been accepted by the Parliamentary Labour Party, would have made MEPs liable to being disciplined for breaching a commitment to "do nothing that brings the party into disrepute".

But at the conclusion of their annual general meeting in Brussels this week, Labour MEPs refused to agree to the changes on the grounds that they were open to too wide an interpretation.

Alex Falconer, the MEP for Mid-Scotland and Fife, said: "We currently have standing orders which serve as a disciplinary code and have worked very well for us for 10 years."

Last month, it emerged that Millbank officials had compiled a "charge sheet" of offences said to have been committed against the party by Hugh Kerr, the left-wing MEP for Essex West and Hertfordshire East.

Among the "misdeemeanours" was an allegation that Mr Kerr heckled Tony Blair at a private reception at last year's party conference in Blackpool. The charge sheet further alleged that Mr Kerr heckled Margaret McDonagh, a senior party official.

Labour officials said later that the file on Mr Kerr had been compiled in order to rebut criticisms if the MEP defected to Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party, something he indicated that he might do.

Last night, Mr Kerr said he was delighted by the decision of fellow MEPs to reject the new code of discipline, which was lost on a vote of 23 to 21.

"You would expect those on the left to reject it but there was a group in the centre who thought that the disrepute clause was a bit of a catch-all phrase," he said.

"It could be interpreted into what they want it to mean. People felt it was carrying things a little too far."

Labour sources pointed out that the vote was close and that the AGM had been generally positive. "It's the first time that we've had MEPs working with a Labour government and as a result of the meeting the liaison with the party and the government will improve," said a source in party headquarters.

Tories cry foul as Bill rushed

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Ann Taylor and Gillian Shephard clashed yesterday in the Commons over the Government's decision to impose the guillotine on the Finance Bill putting the Budget into effect.

The Leader of the Commons and her Tory shadow were involved in a heated row after Mrs Shephard accused the Government of acting in a high-handed manner by steam-rolling the Budget legislation through the House.

Mrs Shephard claimed that it was unprecedented to force the Budget through the Commons committee stage within 12 days of the second reading, which took place yesterday. She protested that it left the City institutions too little time to make representations about the detail in the Budget.

The Tories suspect that the Government's haste is partly motivated by a desire to avoid

a campaign building up from the City against the Budget tax changes which will hit pensions.

"There has never been a gap of only 12 days between the publication of the Finance Bill and the committee stage. Under the Conservatives, that gap was sometimes 84 days or over 100 days. The reason is to give sufficient time for the institutions to have an input but they are preventing that from happening," said Mrs Shephard.

With an overwhelming Labour majority, the Opposition has little hope of changing the timetable for the Budget legislation.

Mrs Taylor strongly defended the decision to press ahead with the Finance Bill, after announcing in the Commons that the House will rise for the Summer recess on 31 July. The time was shortened by the timing of the general election, which left Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, little option but to steer the bill through at the double.

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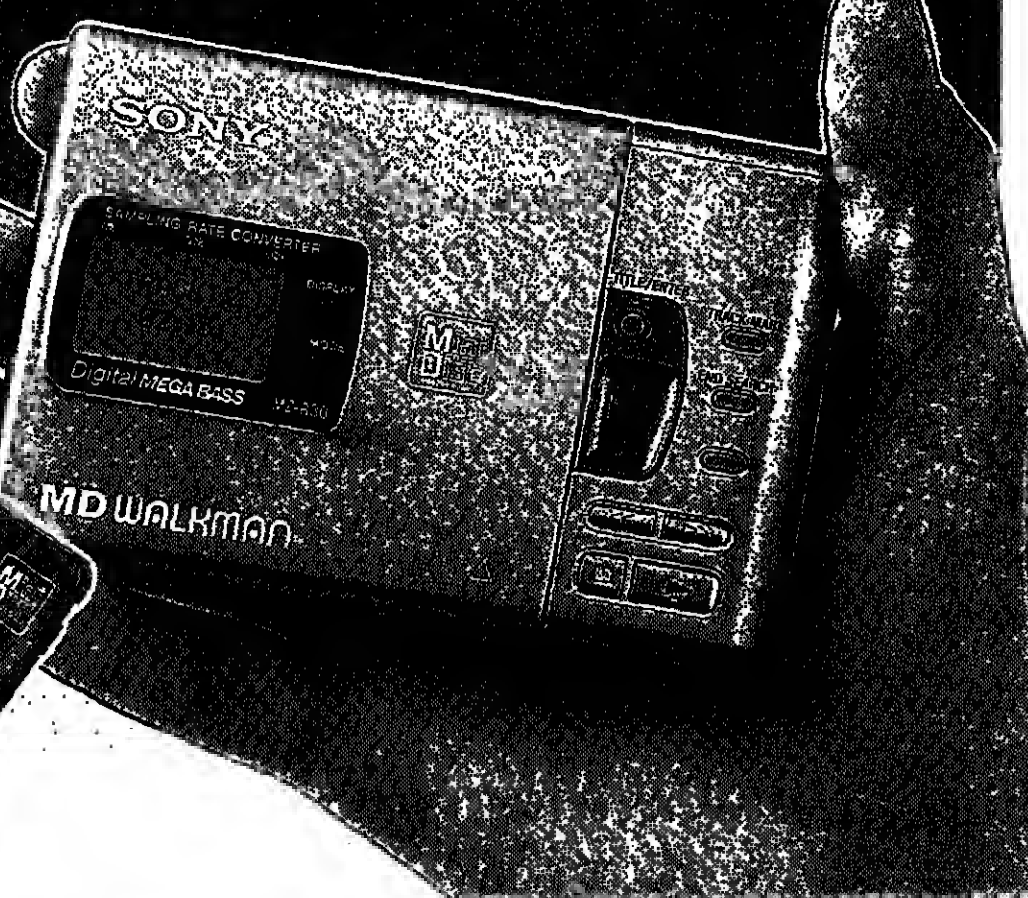


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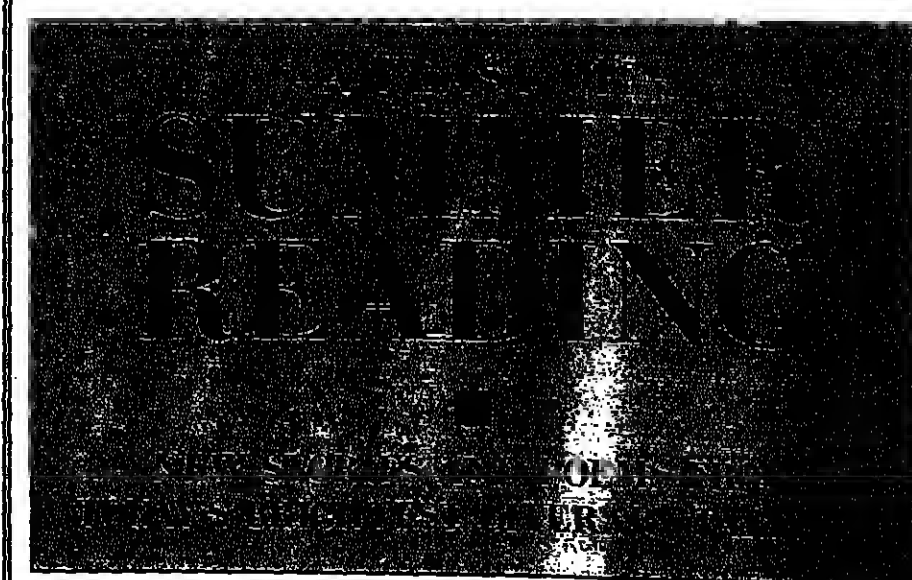
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IN THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY REVIEW

From exile in Jersey, a 92-year-old millionaire prepares to do battle for the land of his fathers

Big money is behind campaign against Welsh devolution. Ian Burrell reports

A 92-year-old multi-millionaire living in tax exile in Jersey is attempting to block devolution for Wales by making his fortune available to campaigners opposing a Welsh assembly.

Sir Julian Hodge, a financier who grew up in the south Wales valleys, said an assembly would be an enormous burden to taxpayers, add unnecessary bureaucracy, and threaten Wales's representation at Westminster.

His announcement yesterday is the most significant setback to the campaign for a Welsh assembly since Llew Smith, the Labour MP for Blaenau Gwent, said that he had been threatened with expulsion from the party if he continued to speak out against devolution.

Yet pro-devolutionists were quick to seize on Sir Julian's intervention as evidence that the debate had turned into a battle between people living in Wales and Welsh exiles.

Daran Hill, national organiser of the "Yes" campaign, based in Cardiff, said: "The 'No' campaign at the moment consists of Llew Smith, the Conservatives, Viscount Tonypantry and a tax exile. It's scarcely representative of Welsh life."

Peter Hain, Under-Secretary of State at the Welsh Office, said Sir Julian's intervention was unlikely greatly to affect the referendum vote in September. "The Yes campaign has young active businessmen and women, pop stars, politicians, sportsmen and women and represents a cross-section of opinion on Wales," he said. "Whereas this seems to be a geriatric campaign."

Sir Julian, a former railway clerk who clawed himself up to be chairman of the Bank of Wales and is worth £60m, was yesterday suffering with asthma and too ill to elaborate on his battle plan.

Earlier he said: "I love Wales and



Speaking out: Sir Julian Hodge at home with his dogs - "I don't think an assembly will be good for the nation" Photograph: Western Mail

have done everything possible to promote it and everything Welsh, but I don't think an assembly will be good for the nation from a business point of view.

"Who's going to pay the cost of it - and what good is it going to do?" Sir Julian ran into controversy last year when he offered to contribute up to £5m towards the cost of building a new Roman Catholic cathedral in Cardiff.

The plan was rejected by Archbishop John Aloysius Ward on the grounds that the present building was adequate.

Others were more critical of the offer. The Very Reverend Administrator of St David's, Fr Bernard Whitehouse, 70, said: "Sir Julian is a generous man, I'm sure. But would it be a Roman Catholic cathedral he is proposing or a Hodge cathedral?"

Sir Julian, who is a socialist and long-standing friend of Viscount Tonypantry, the former Commons speaker, wants the anti-devolutionist campaign to be non-political.

The Yes campaign is to be stepped up tomorrow with a conference addressed by Ron Davies, Secretary of State for Wales. Also speaking at the conference will be Viscount St David's, the first senior

Tory to come out in favour of devolution.

Government sources said the Prime Minister would be throwing his weight behind the Yes campaign, with several visits to Wales during the coming months.

Techniques used by Labour's Millbank staff during the election campaign are also to be deployed in Wales as part of a huge publicity drive in favour of devolution.

Blair to make 30 peers to tackle Tory bias

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Tony Blair will create 30 life peers as the first step to tackling the in-built Tory majority in the House of Lords, to strengthen the Government's forces for a confrontation with Tory peers over devolution for Scotland and Wales.

Labour leaders in the Lords believe they will still be under strength after the list of 30 working Labour peers is produced at the end of the month, and the creation of more working Labour peers will be needed.

Labour's case will be strengthened by John Major's resignation honours list, which will create 12 new Tory peers, who are expected to include the former Cabinet ministers David Hunt, Ian Lang, Roger Freeman, Norman Lamont, and possibly Sir Marcus Fox, the former chairman of the 1922 Committee of Tory MPs. William Waldegrave, Michael Portillo, and Malcolm Rifkind, who all lost their seats in the general election, are understood to have turned down peerages.

William Hague, the Conservative Party leader, has nominated three more Tory peers for the working list, and Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, has nominated 12 peers. One senior Liberal Democrat source said: "The Tories have been asking for it because they have created lots more life peers than Labour over the past 18 years. There is nothing unconstitutional about this. In fact, Labour need for more."

Lord Richard, the Labour leader in the House of Lords, has told the Prime Minister that he desperately needs more troops to cope with the weight of business now facing the Lords.

Labour estimates that of the 1,045 lords eligible to attend in 1995-96, they had 111 peers (96 life peers and 15 hereditary), the Tories had 466 (146 life and 320 hereditary), and the Liberal Democrats 56 (32 and 24). On the cross benches there were 112 life peers and 192 hereditary peers. There were 26 bishops, and 108 others.

Lord Richard privately believes it would be unrealistic to create sufficient Labour life peers to match the Tories' total of life peers over the term of the Parliament or to overturn the Tory majority. "I don't think either is possible. What I want is reinforcements," he has told senior colleagues.

The Tory lords will not try to kill the Bills to set up a Scottish Parliament and a Welsh Assembly, but they will challenge the Government over the detail.

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news

Major bowled over by his Oval house

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

John Major is moving house to be near his first love – cricket. Cleaver Square, Kennington, may be one of the most sought-after Georgian Squares in south London, but the clincher for Mr Major was the fact that it was within hailing distance of the Oval, the home of Surrey Cricket Club, where he is a member.

Mr Major, who once nursed the ambition of being a professional batsman in Surrey's kit, always found time for cricket when he was Prime Minister, asking for the first match scores on the scrambler wherever he was abroad.

On the day after the general election, he eased the pain of defeat by taking the family to the Oval to get away from it all. And when Hong Kong was being handed over to the Chinese, cricket came first. Mr Major eschewed the ceremony and stayed

in Britain to attend the memorial service for Denis Compton.

The Majors' new home also happens to be a short drive away from Westminster, but now that he has more time on his hands, Mr Major is expected to be soaking off more often to see a few more maidens howled at his beloved club.

Norma Major, on the other hand, may have doubts about becoming a cricket widow after their holiday on Sardinia's Costa Smeralda on the yacht of the multi-millionaire John Paul Getty II, a fellow cricket fanatic.

They first met in a box at the Oval and Mr Getty allowed the Majors to stay at his house in Cadogan Square, in central London, after they left 10 Downing Street.

Mr Major is now joining an expanding band of politicians who are being attracted to Kennington, where 3- to 4-bedroom houses typically sell for not less than £300,000. The Majors' neighbours will include Roger

Liddle, now a member of Tony Blair's Downing Street policy unit; Jack Straw, the Home Secretary; and Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader.

Most of their neighbours are young City traders who have cashed in on their stock market bonuses, although some of the houses are still occupied by locals in the square, where Porches nestle next to Ford Escorts. "It is one of the best locations in the area, and property prices have gone up by £100,000 in the past year because it is so sought-after," said one local estate agent.

They are keeping their home at in Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire, which they bought in 1983, in Mr Major's Huntingdon constituency. The Majors' acquisition of another London home will raise questions about where the money is coming from, as for most of the past 18 years, Mr Major has been prevented from earning a skyscraper salary in the City, because he was a minister.



Howzat: Cleaver Square in Kennington, a short distance from both the Oval and Westminster, which will be home to the Majors. Photograph: Kalpesh Lathra

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Half of train inquiries ignored

Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

Train companies were warned by the rail regulator yesterday they face fines totalling millions of pounds unless the recent performance of the national telephone inquiry service does not improve.

This warning will hit the 25 train operators hard. A spokeswoman for John Swift, the rail regulator, said that the last complete set of figures showed that 45 per cent of calls to the train inquiry service went unanswered.

This is little improvement on figures earlier this year, which showed that 49 per cent of calls were not taken in April and 35 per cent in May.

The regulator's targets state that 90 per cent of all calls should be answered. Mr Swift said there had been no sustained improvement on the "awful" performance of the service in April.

Unless the service improved within 28 days, a final enforcement notice would be issued and fines amounting to hundreds of thousands of pounds imposed on operating companies.

The penalties are severe. Under the fines system, if more than 25 per cent of calls are not answered then train companies will be fined £200,000 per percentage point of calls not taken.

However, the Railways Act does not allow the regulator to fine an operator for the first offence. This means that should the service improve in August – meeting Mr Swift's targets – it leaves him powerless to act.

The train companies had annoyed the rail regulator's office last month by not bringing the falling service to his attention. The regulator now gets a weekly bulletin containing all the figures.

Officially known as the National Rail Enquiry Service, the service is administered by the Association of Train Operating Companies (Atoc).

In April last year, the system had 80 different numbers. These were replaced by a single number in October 1996 and the whole system franchised to the private sector. This has seen call from London answered by operators in South Wales, many of whom are unaware of the local destinations.

Since the autumn, performance had been climbing steadily. A spokesman for Atoc claimed the system was handling nearly "one million calls a week". "We are confident of improving the service," he added.

The railway industry was also chided yesterday by safety watchdogs who called for old-style "slam-door" railway carriages to be phased out, amid concerns over their crashworthiness. Nearly 2,300 of the Mark 1 carriages, built between 1959 and 1974, are still in regular passenger service.

The carriages are believed to have caused deaths in crashes – including the 1988 Clapham disaster – because of a tendency to "ride over" carriages ahead.

Jenny Bacon, the director general of the Health and Safety Executive, announced yesterday the launch of a consultation exercise which may hasten the phasing out of the carriages.

DAILY POEM

Mirror Image

By Louise Glück

Tonight I saw myself in the dark window as the image of my father, whose life was spent like this, thinking of death, to the exclusion of other sensual matters, so in the end that life was easy to give up, since it contained nothing; even my mother's voice couldn't make him change or turn back as he believed that once you can't love another human being you have no place in the world.

Originally published in Ararat (1990), "Mirror Image" appears in the collected volume of Louise Glück's First Five Books. Poems just published by Carcanet (£9.95).

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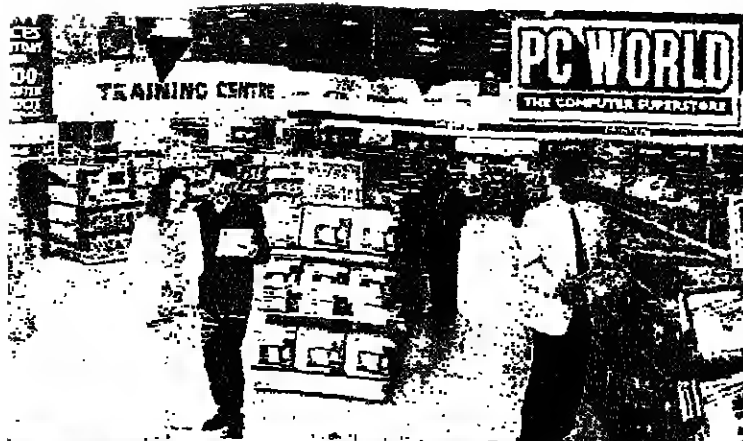
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Autumn colours: Three creations from Christian Lacroix's autumn-winter collection in Paris Photographs: Gareth Watkins/Reuters

What price a bobby on the beat? 50p on rents

Esther Leach

It was a question that everyone on the estate was asking: why should we pay twice for our police force?

The debate had been sparked by a proposal from Bradford City Council to add 50p a week to rents to ensure police officers patrol their estate. One woman said: "If there is trouble then the police should be here whether we pay an extra 50p or not. I already pay for the police with a share of my council tax. I don't see why I should pay again."

The argument is often repeated in the community centre on the pre-war Ravenscliffe housing estate which is troubled by drug-taking, burglaries and vandalism.

"We resent the idea too that only council tenants on the estate, and not those who own their council house, should have to pay extra," said Pat Hussain, 55, who has been a council tenant for almost 40 years.

"We would be subsidising house owners, who are probably better able to pay the extra than those who rent their houses, it's just not on." Her

friend and neighbour Helen Vennie, 55, who now owns her three bedroom semi-detached council house agreed. "I wouldn't want to benefit at my friend's expense," she said. "We have our problems but we look out for each other and something like this won't do anything for community spirit."

"I really think the whole idea is offensive and really don't want any part of it. The empty houses on the estate, there must be at least 100, only make the problem of crime worse. The kids break into the empty houses and take what they can to sell. They use the houses for drugs and God knows what else. And the council is losing money too. An empty house means no rent or council tax and over time that has got to mount up."

The proposal follows a successful earlier experiment in which Bradford used money from the last government's City Challenge Fund to pay for two police officers dedicated to patrolling a housing estate in the Byersley area. The council now wants to repeat that success across the city and has been consulting tenants on how it can be achieved, suggesting 50p a

week as a service charge. Full consultations have yet to be carried out with West Yorkshire police although some local talks have gone on.

Audrey Rastick, who has launched a city-wide campaign opposing the charge described the idea as stupid. "I don't believe it could have been thought through properly," she said.

"It's suggested that the extra 50p should be voluntary but how can you finance a scheme like this in such a way? It's ridiculous. The whole idea is a very dangerous precedent. The next thing you know they will be talking about extra payment for ambulance and fire services."

The commander of the local police division, Superintendent Michael Baxter, said any additional investment was welcome because it would enable them to concentrate efforts in particular areas without taking away support from elsewhere.

The city's housing chairman, Barry Midwood, emphasised that the council was only asking tenants their views. "If tenants themselves take the view that it is viable, then we shall take the matter to the police."

Top judge in plea for fewer jail sentences

Patricia Wynn Davies
Legal Affairs Editor

The steep rise in the prison population is caused by judges heeding public opinion, but ever more severe sentencing is treating the symptoms rather than the causes of crime, Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, said yesterday.

Ministers should grasp the important task of convincing the public that community service sentences were not a "soft option", Lord Bingham, England's senior professional judge, urged

vice. "It is highly desirable that the sentence should be one of community service in any case where such a sentence would provide adequate punishment and protection."

The Lord Chief Justice said the increase in the jail population was not explained by any recent increase in sentencing powers. "I have no doubt that it is related to the pressure of public opinion."

He said he accepted that judges must have regard to the "primitive instinct" of retribution to maintain public confidence in the criminal justice system. But offenders re-entered society at some point. The offender may, as a result of his experience in confinement, be even more dangerous than he was before. Research findings showed that the prison sentencing had a very small impact on general levels of crime.

There was a "tabloid tendency" to dismiss efforts to rehabilitate as a way of allowing offenders to escape the punishment they really deserved, Lord Bingham said. But schemes around the country had proven success.

The typical offender was male, of low intelligence, addicted to drugs or alcohol, with a family history of parental conflict, lack of supervision, erratic discipline, and emotional physical or sexual abuse, he said. "These considerations do not of course excuse or justify crime. But [they] do help to explain the commission of crime, and those who urge the imposition of ever more serious sentences as a solution to the great and growing problem of crime should pause to ask whether they are treating the symptoms rather than the disease."



Bingham: 'Tabloid tendency'

in the annual Police Foundation lecture in London.

"While the present vengeful mood of the public endures, courts will hesitate to make such orders," he said. That was "very unfortunate", because the efficacy of imprisonment was in many cases open to question while absorbing resources that would be better spent on schools and hospitals.

Repeating an earlier plea for a Royal Commission on crime and punishment, Lord Bingham said urgent steps needed to be taken to restore the credibility of community service.

Couch therapy works wonders

Jeremy Lawrence
Health Editor

In the Eighties, the message to the unemployed was "on yer bike". In the Nineties, it could become "on the couch".

Researchers have found that the best way for the out-of-work to get a job is to get a shrink. A study of 289 unemployed people found those who had group psychotherapy were three times more likely to find work than those who had more conventional help.

All those in the study were white-collar workers who had previously held jobs in management, sales or administration and had been out of work for two years. They were divided into two groups which were either given help developing social and business contacts or enrolled in a programme of cognitive behaviour therapy.

Cognitive behaviour therapy is a widely used psychother-

apeutic technique based on the theory that how we think about the world affects mood. A half-filled glass may be described, optimistically, as half full or, pessimistically, as half empty. The aim of the therapy is to make people aware of their self-defeatism and school them in more positive ways of thinking.

In the study by Dr Judith Proudfoot and colleagues at London University, published in the *Lancet*, a third of those who had cognitive therapy found full-time jobs within four months compared with 13 per cent of those who had social support. If part-time work is included, almost half of the therapy group found work compared with 28 per cent of the remainder.

Commenting on the results, Professor Chris McManus, a psychiatrist at St Mary's Hospital, London, says they present a "remarkable success for cognitive behaviour therapy".

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TINTED GLASS

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COLOUR KEYED DOOR MIRRORS
PASSENGER SEAT BACK POCKET
RDS RADIO/CASSETTE PLAYER
VELOUR SEAT TRIM MATERIAL
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POLL

Clare Short faces a barrage of criticism from Israel after speech

Angered by a speech made by Clare Short sympathising with the plight of the Palestinians, Israel yesterday tried to stop the Secretary of State for Overseas

The Israeli embassy yesterday confirmed that it had asked Yossi Beilin, the former Israeli deputy foreign minister, who is

Rudi Prasor, spokesman for the embassy, said: "It is true that the embassy recommended that he [Mr Beilin] not meet Clare Short."

Although Mr Beilin chose to ignore Israeli foreign ministry advice by meeting with Ms Short

The row began after a speech by Ms Short to Medical Aid for the Palestinians, a charitable group, three weeks ago. She said

in the speech: "I am very conscious of the historical wrongs done to the Palestinian people — and the unfairness of the world's expectation that they should make sacrifices to make up for the evil done by Europeans during the Holocaust."

Asserting that Ms Short had compared Israel's attitude towards the Palestinians and the Nazis' attitude towards the Jews, the Israeli Foreign Ministry made a protest. Ms Short was said by an official at her department yesterday to feel that

The United States and Israel have largely succeeded in excluding other foreign powers from effective intervention in the Middle East.

Palestinians. However, the EU countries are the largest donors to the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and the West Bank.

Mr Arafat's first meeting with Tony Blair on Monday will form part of a two-day visit to Britain by the Palestinian leader. Mr Arafat has been trying to build up international support to force Mr Netanyahu to implement the Interim Agreement of 1995, the present phase of the Oslo accords. Under this, Israel



Yasser Arafat: Seeks outside support for Palestinians

should withdraw from most of the West Bank; Gaza would get an airport and port; and there would be free passage between Gaza and the West Bank.

After a few days without rioting there was increased looting yesterday in Hebron, the Palestinian city of 120,000, effectively partitioned earlier in the year to protect 400 Jewish settlers there. For the first time since the agreement shots were fired at a settler building, prompting Uzi Dayan, the Israeli commander in the West Bank, to close all Palestinian shops in the Israeli sector of the city.

Britain heads for clash with Nigeria

Steve Crawshaw

Nigeria is furious, but to no avail. Commonwealth ministers gathered in London yesterday to hear a string of opposition and human rights groups call for tougher action against the Nigerian regime - including possible expulsion from the Commonwealth.

Ken Wiwa, son of the executed activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, argued: "The Nigerian authorities are very worried about the effect of expulsion on their image, and at home. The effect would be stunning." Kayode Fayemi, of the United Democratic Front, an opposition umbrella group, said it was as important to take tough measures: "It's the choice between

Britain had made all the right noises, Mr Fayemi said. "The plotitudes have been good, the statements have been brilliant. Now, they must follow that up with action."

In 1995, Commonwealth leaders appeared ready to hit Nigeria hard after the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa. Nigeria's membership was promptly suspended, amid warnings that, unless Nigeria took steps to clean up its democratic act, it faced expulsion. Two years on, little has changed.

Nigeria's Foreign Minister, Tom Akimi, complained bitterly this week about the ministerial meeting, declaring: "The hostile attitude and the use of bodies like CMAG [Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group] contains the seeds of the future disintegration of the Commonwealth." But democracy activists insist that the Nigerian anger is in itself an in-

dication that the government is getting worried, and that this is therefore a good moment to press the advantage home. In the words of Mr Wiwa: "The whole thing boils down to the credibility of the Commonwealth."

The ministerial group, which finishes its deliberations today, is in advance of a final ministerial meeting in September, which will make recommendations for action to a Commonwealth summit to be hosted by Britain in Edinburgh in October.

Britain has been broadly sympathetic to tougher action. Canada has been keenest to take a lead. Within the Commonwealth, Zimbabwe, which chairs the ministerial group, has been notably reluctant to rock the regional boat.

The Nigerian opposition expresses satisfaction at the change of tone in Whitehall since the elections. The new government has been more explicit in its support for the opponents of General Sani Abacha's regime than the Conservative government ever was.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, argued this month: "What holds Nigeria back is a corrupt regime and very poor standards of democratic government."

Tony Lloyd, Foreign Office minister with responsibility for Africa, has made it clear that Britain is in no mood to back down. In advance of yesterday's meeting, he spoke to the *Financial Times* of the "hazardous transition from military to civilian rule. He warned of an electoral system which would allow "the transition of General Abacha to President Abacha. We cannot allow that."

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Net closes in on Bosnia's wanted men

The military raid on Prijedor reflects a change in UN and Nato strategy to actively seek out suspects

Marcus Tanner

Yesterday's military operation to capture two of Bosnia's leading war crime suspects suggests the net is closing in on the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, and his army commander, General Ratko Mladic.

Those two men, the most important figures in the Bosnian Serbs' bloody war of expansion against their Muslim and Croat neighbours, were still holed up in eastern Bosnia - Karadzic in his Pale fastness just outside Sarajevo, and Mladic in a bunker near the little eastern Bosnian town of Han Pijesak.

Although British army spokesmen yesterday refused to confirm that they have any immediate intention of capturing the kingpins in the organised carnage of 1992, there is no doubt the United Nations and Nato have now dramatically changed their strategy - from waiting for suspects to fall into their net to actively seeking out.

It is possible that an attempt to capture Karadzic and Mladic could follow at any moment.

British special forces who took part in yesterday's raid in Prijedor will have been heartened by the lack of any popular reaction among Bosnian Serbs to the arrest of two of their most significant former leaders, and the death of one of them.

The arrest of Simo Drijaca, the former police chief of Prijedor, who ran the infamous de-

tention centre of Keraterm and Omarska between April and December 1992 and a key figure in the Bosnian Serb power structure, marks a milestone in the international community's attitude towards the arrest of war crime suspects.

Never before have either UN or Nato peace-keepers dared to go out and snatch a man inferior only to Karadzic and Mladic in importance in the Serb hierarchy, and thus risk an armed showdown with his bodyguards.

The bloodshed that resulted from the attempt to grab Drijaca, which took place at about 9.30am in Prijedor, was only a hint of the carnage that might ensue from any attempt to take either Karadzic or Mladic.

Drijaca was clearly surprised, and who he opened fire on the British troops seeking him, wounded only one of them before he was gunned down in what an Army spokesman in Banja Luka said was self-defence.

Karadzic is reported never to be without an escort of at least 50 well-armed bodyguards, most of whom it can be assumed would go down fighting rather than join their master in the dock in The Hague.

Madeline Albright, the US Secretary of State, launched the new, much tougher, policy towards arresting war crime suspects last month on a tour of former Yugoslavia.

When she met Slobodan Milosevic, of Serbia, Franjo Tudjman, of Croatia and Biljana



Action station: British soldiers serving with S-For standing guard at a checkpoint near Prijedor after yesterday's military initiative. Photograph: Srdjan Ilic/AP

Prijedor. If Prijedor is not off limits, neither is Pale nor Han Pijesak.

The question, however, is whether this new active policy of seeking out war criminals is shared equally by the Western powers involved in S-For. New Labour's determination to put ethics at the heart of foreign policy has clearly played a part in yesterday's events in Prijedor.

But the British "zone" in Bosnia is limited to the north-west. Karadzic and Mladic are in the east of Bosnia, where the French and Italians are supreme: it is not certain that the French - traditionally the most sympathetic to the Serbs of the Western powers - want to go after two leaders far better armed and less likely to be surprised than the former boss of Omarska and Keraterm.

Plavsic, the leader of the Bosnian Serb state set up under the 1995 Dayton accord, she spelt out that Washington was losing patience over the non-delivery of indicted suspects to the tri-

bunal in The Hague.

She was also reported to have struck an accord with Mrs Plavsic, in whose field the largest number of suspects are lurking. Certainly, as soon as Ms

Albright left Mrs Plavsic's Banja Luka headquarters, Radovan Karadzic escalated his simmering dispute with Mrs Plavsic virtually into open warfare.

The new tougher approach

bore fruit only days later, two weeks ago, when the UN forces in eastern Slavonia, in Croatia, suddenly arrested Slavko Dokmanovic in connection with Serb atrocities in the city of

Vukovar at the end of 1991.

Now Nato-led S-For troops have shown that they share the UN's stiffened resolve to go in and apprehend suspects, even in the Bosnian Serb heartland of

North Korea ready for war, warns top defector

Richard Lloyd Parry
Tokyo

Hwang Jang Yop, the most senior official ever to defect from North Korea, yesterday repeated his warnings of impending war on the Korean peninsula, but offered no new revelations about Pyongyang's mysterious leadership.

Mr Hwang was speaking at a long-awaited news conference in Seoul, his first public appearance since April, when he arrived in the South, two months after defecting through the South Korean embassy in Peking. Since then, he has been undergoing an extensive "debriefing" by South Korea's spy organisation, the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP).

As a senior member of the North Korean Workers' Party, a former tutor to the country's leader, Kim Jong Il, and his leading political philosopher, he was expected to provide unprecedented new insights into the workings of one of the



Hwang: North's leaders are bent on invading South

world's most secretive and unpredictable regimes. But three months of questioning have produced a remarkable result: on almost every aspect of North Korea, Mr Hwang and his new government are in perfect agreement.

The message sent by Mr Hwang is the one which successive South Korean governments have been repeating to their people and allies for decades: for all the food shortages and economic crises which have beset the country recently, North Korea's leaders are psychopaths, bent on invading the South Korean paradise at the first opportunity. Mr Hwang's vehement denunciations of the country he served for 60 years were matched only by his praise for his new home.

"I have come to the Republic of Korea (ROK) to warn about the danger of an armed invasion of the South and to contribute to the peaceful unification of our country," Mr Hwang said in a prepared state-

ment. "The North's preparedness for war goes beyond imagination. North Korea is permeated by an atmosphere of war ... I am firmly convinced that it is necessary for all Koreans to be firmly united and thoroughly prepared if we are to prevent the impending war and safeguard freedom and peace."

In a separate written statement, issued on his behalf by the NSP, Mr Hwang described the invasion strategy devised by Kim Jong Il, the son of North Korea's founding "Great Leader", Kim Il Sung. This would begin with a faked attack by North Korean troops wearing South Korean uniforms, thus providing the pretext for an artillery bombardment of Seoul. Any American intervention on behalf of the South would be punished with a missile strike on Japan which would "turn the area into a sea of fire".

Strategic facilities in the South would be seized by 100,000 commandos, followed by a full-scale motorised invasion, which would seize control of Seoul within a week, and the entire country within six months.

If such a plan does exist it will bring little anxiety to American officials who say that an attack by North Korea's poorly equipped and under-fuelled forces, while highly destructive, would be repulsed in a matter of days. According to Mr Hwang, Kim Jong Il wanted to attack the South in 1992, but was talked out of it by his late father.

This week, the United Nations launched another appeal for \$43.7m worth of food aid to alleviate food shortages in North Korea. Meanwhile in Pyongyang, Kim Jong Il made a rare public appearance at ceremonies marking the third anniversary of his father's death. Mr Hwang confirmed that the country is suffering from wide-spread food shortages, and that Kim Jong Il is in firm personal control. But on several crucial questions, he was disappointingly vague.

In April, Mr Hwang was quoted as having told the NSP that Pyongyang was capable of "scorching" Seoul with nuclear missiles. But yesterday he admitted that, as a party intellectual rather than a military commander, he had never seen such a weapon. "It's common sense that there are [nuclear weapons]," he said. "I just can't prove it."

He also poured cold water on rumours of the so-called "Hwang list", said to contain the names of hundreds of senior South Koreans working as spies for the communist side, but insisted that "there are operations sections engaged in infiltration and intelligence".

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international

Exodus swells as Cambodia is condemned

Matthew Chance
Phnom Penh

Hundreds of expatriates converged on Phnom Penh airport yesterday, as more nations decided to evacuate their citizens from Cambodia after last week-end's coup.

The airfield, scene of a dramatic airlift of foreign nationals fleeing the Khmer Rouge in 1975, was the focus of intense fighting just under a week ago between rival government factions, littering the runway tarmac with debris.

Asbestos shards and rubble crunched under the feet of a long line of British, Canadian and American evacuees as they

dragged their suitcases, and what belongings they could salvage, past the gutted terminal buildings towards three Malaysian Air Force cargo aircraft.

Empty boxes and broken bottles from duty-free cognac and French perfume, looted by the forces of each side, clung to nearby bushes and added a pungent piquancy to the scene, their odours mingling with the fading smell of gunsmoke.

The exodus, which has gained momentum over the past few days, has been given further impetus by a hardening of international condemnation of the coup which ousted the country's First Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, and which

established his former coalition partner, Hun Sen, formerly Second Prime Minister, as the unchallenged power in Cambodia.

At an emergency meeting in Malaysia yesterday, member states of the region's economic bloc, the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) postponed Cambodia's membership, scheduled for later this month. This is a serious diplomatic rebuke for Hun Sen, but he has remained defiant, warning the international community and Asean to keep out of Cambodia's internal affairs.

In Washington, the State Department has called on Hun Sen to reverse his bid for power and to acknowledge Prince



Pulling out: A man hauling his luggage through the wrecked arrivals terminal at the airport in Phnom Penh yesterday

Photograph: AP

Ranariddh, who is canvassing US support in New York, as the senior Cambodian leader. Hun Sen has rejected the call. United States marines are expected to fly in later today to supervise a full-scale withdrawal of American nationals, although this also is more a diplomatic reprimand at this stage than an expression of true fears for the Americans' safety.

More than 450 Britons are being advised by the Foreign Office to take the first available flights out of the country. Most will fly from Phnom Penh, leaving behind them a city scarred

by the fighting. On the outskirts of the city, factories which were last week producing rubber components for export now lie burnt out, or shattered by heavy mortars and shoulder-launched B-40 rockets.

Prince Ranariddh's family home, said to contain priceless antiquities from the ancient Angkor Wat temple complex, has been all but destroyed. The city offices of his FUNCINPEC political group were torn apart by the troops of Hun Sen's former communist Cambodian People's Party. The fragments lie strewn across bloodstained roads outside the building, a reminder of the more than 50 people killed in the coup.

Hun Sen's soldiers, who just four nights earlier were looting shops and offices across the city, now roam through the pot-holed streets on powerful motorcycles, toting heavy machine guns and rocket launchers. During the fighting, fridges, cookers and other electrical goods were carried out through smashed shop windows. Car showrooms were emptied: gleaming red Toyotas or Mitsubishi can be seen crawling, incongruously, through the cycle-rickshaws and decrepit scooters that make up most of Phnom Penh's traffic.

But fires are no longer burning on the streets of the capital and the thousands of residents who fled the violence last week have mostly returned.

The looted goods are appearing in markets at prices within the reach of many more than could previously have afforded luxury items such as televisions and toasters. One

man said he could now buy a new motorbike for just \$100. "We cannot stop and think about our situation for too long," says Kim Sok, a grocery stall-holder, "we have to put down our heads and work on to live, no matter what is going on around us."

The feeling, shared by most people in this beleaguered country, devastated by nearly 25 years of incessant war, is that events are beyond their control.

Cambodians could not prevent America from dropping its bombs in the early Seventies, leaving as many as 400,000 dead. Nor did they largely support the brutal Khmer Rouge regime, led by the dictator Pol Pot, during which an estimated 2 million of their countrymen were killed.

The elections of 1993, sponsored by the United Nations, gave Cambodians their first real say in the running of their own country. Now even that result—always resented by the loser, Hun Sen—has been overruled.



New leader: Hun Sen at a press conference yesterday

significant shorts

Swiss heroin handouts said to cut crime

A Swiss experiment with state-distributed heroin—a world first—has slashed crime, misery and death associated with the hard-core drug scene, authorities said. Presenting the findings of a pilot three-year study involving 1,100 addicts, health and police experts said the programme was a success, saved the taxpayer money, and should be continued. But the experts said state-provided heroin would not solve the evils of drug abuse and was no substitute for other therapies and withdrawal programmes. The Netherlands is planning its own programme with heroin distribution; Germany, Spain and Australia are also interested in the Swiss experience.

AP—Bern

Venezuela death toll put at 59

The death-toll in Venezuela's worst earthquake in decades rose to 59. About 320 others were injured in Wednesday's quake, which registered 6.9 on the Richter scale. About 250 people have been rescued, most with minor injuries. Worse hit was the village of Cariaco, where two schools collapsed, killing 30 pupils.

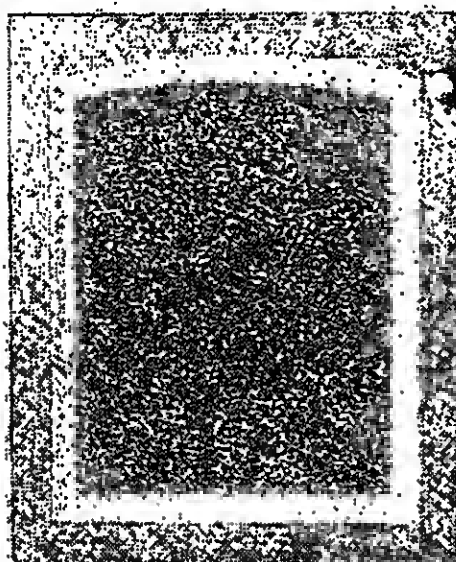
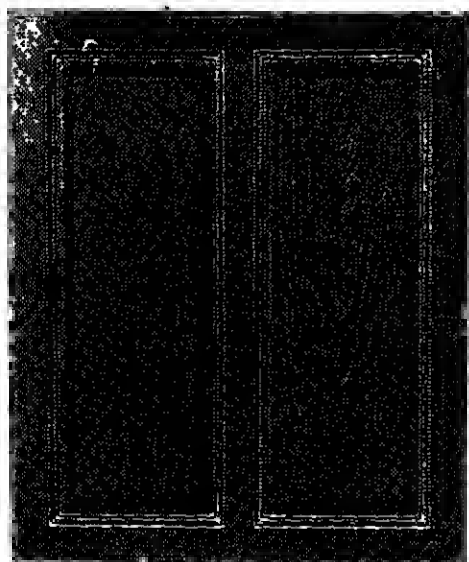
AP—Caracas

£7m more for quake victims

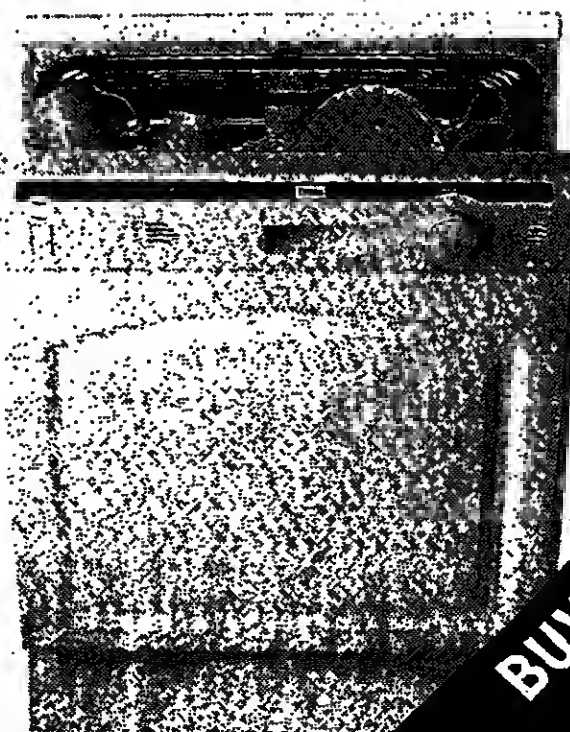
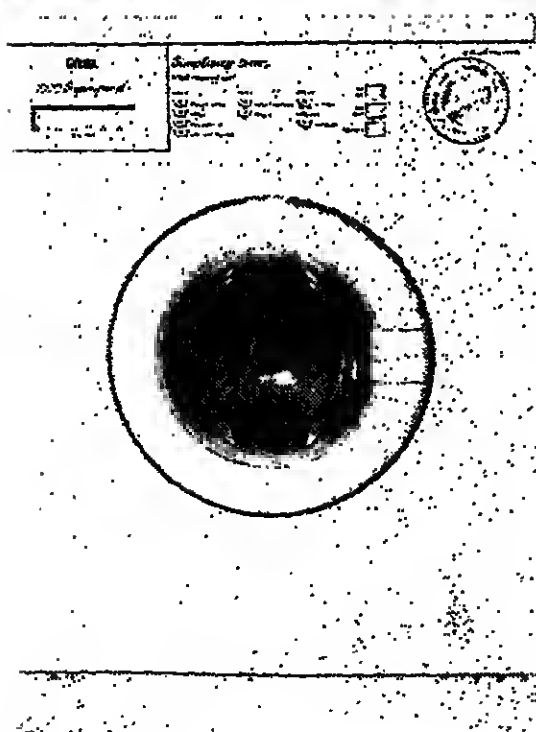
Britain will give Montserrat a further £6.95m to help people hurt or made homeless by volcanic activity on the Caribbean island. "We are taking emergency action to deal with the crisis in all its aspects," the International Development Secretary, Clare Short, said. Twenty-two people are dead or missing following the most serious eruption so far, last month.

Reuters—London

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Saturday 12th July and Sunday 13th July

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Logic of Emu has Paris and Bonn at a loss

John Lichfield
Paris
Imre Karacs
Bonn

Germany and France both confronted the tough budgetary logic of monetary union yesterday, but insisted that the goal of a single currency was still attainable. Guessing the likely size of the French budget deficit, if left to its own devices this year, has become a game of sticking the tail on the donkey.

Estimates, from the semi-official to the private, range from 3.4 per cent to 4 per cent, well over the 3 per cent of GDP guideline in the Maastricht Treaty. Economists are almost unanimous in their assessment that Germany's budget deficit will be over 3 per cent this year, and probably in 1998 as well.

In France it was revealed that the former prime minister, Alain Juppé, warned his successor last month that the country's budget deficit could shatter the Emu guideline this year, possibly rising as high as 4 per cent of GDP.

The warning was contained in a confidential letter handed to the new prime minister, Lionel Jospin, when he took over on 2 June. The contents were leaked to the French press this week as part of an almost daily campaign by the Jospin government to prepare other EU governments, the markets, left-wing MPs and public opinion for the tough budgetary choices which lie ahead.

The French Finance Minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, has let it be known that France will not hit the 3-per-cent target in 1997 but expects to come close in 1998. He has suggested that action will be taken to bring this year's deficit down to a figure acceptable to other EU countries (possibly 3.4 or 3.5 per cent) but confusion remains on how he will achieve this.

This week he suggested that spending cuts may be necessary, something he previously seemed to rule out. At the

Brussels set for a bigger EU

After talks in Brussels, the European Commission looks set to call for Estonia and Slovenia to join Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Cyprus in the next round of EU expansion, writes Sarah Helm.

The proposal is expected to be presented next week when the Commission sets out plans for preparing for enlargement and clearing the way for the first accession talks.

Talks with new members look certain to begin under the British presidency of the Union, starting in January. Ten countries have applied for membership; to ease the disappointment of states not invited to join in the first wave, the enlargement conference will be maintained as a rolling negotiation, with shadow negotiations established for likely latecomers, say British officials.

same time, he unfroze a £1.1bn contingency fund to allow promised new social spending to go ahead. Various ways of raising new revenue have also been floated and then repudiated or not quite repudiated, including a windfall tax on very profitable businesses and an increased wealth tax.

Bonn is also struggling to hit the target: yesterday it finalised its emergency budget aimed at qualifying for Emu. While the government was forced to acknowledge that it would have to borrow an additional DM18bn (£6bn) to keep the state machinery ticking over till the end of the year, officials still insisted that the Maastricht targets remained in sight.

"We are certain that we will be able strictly to fulfil the

Maastricht criteria," said Hermann Otto Solms, leader of the Free Democrats' parliamentary group. His party, the smallest in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition, last night gave the nod of approval to the Finance Minister's supplementary budget, which is due to be adopted by the full Cabinet today.

Theo Waigel, the minister with the unenviable task, had been racking his brain since January to find ways of conjuring up the magic figure prescribed by Maastricht. He still has some tricks up his sleeve: privatisation of state-owned utilities netting DM12.7bn this year, and temporary freezes in public expenditure. Although the Maastricht Treaty forbids such one-off measures, the Finance Minister is likely to argue that those rules, dictated originally by his own government, are mere technicalities.

As the day of reckoning approaches, other excuses are already being invented. The federal government intends to pin the blame for some of the overspending on the Länder, and on unavoidable overshoots in welfare spending.

Today the Cabinet is also due to approve the budget for 1998, promising, as it did last year, a steady fall in outgoings and a reduction of government debt.

Next year Mr Waigel plans to sell the rest of the family silver, bringing him another DM20bn. Despite stagnating revenue, the promised tax cuts will be introduced.

Economists say that will ensure that Bonn will have a serious problem meeting the Maastricht criteria next year, too, though perhaps that will no longer be Mr Waigel's - or Chancellor Kohl's - problem. But at least the new budgets make one concession to the real world: the pretence that unemployment will be halved by the year 2000 is gone.

Even the government's professional optimists expect the number of jobless to be no fewer than 3.9 million then.



Hidden dangers: The 'luxury' Georgetown area of the capital has been shaken by a triple murder

Photograph: Rex Features

Murders mar a picture of wealth

A Washington enclave long regarded as a haven has found it is no longer immune to the crime wave

Mary Dejevsky
Washington

It was the legendary picture of America - the horror version. Three young people - an Irish-American, a black and a Jew, murdered, shot in the head, behind the trendy coffee-shop where they worked. They had just locked up after their early-evening shift.

The killings, discovered on Monday morning, were at once typical and highly unusual. They were typical because Washington, capital of the world's richest nation, has one of the highest rates of violent crime in the US and has proved less amenable to "get-tough" policing methods than almost anywhere else in America.

Within the District of Columbia limits there is a perpetual frisson of violence, whether in the downtown area or on the periphery. Speeding, screaming police vans, private

cars brought to a screeching halt, their occupants bundled out and played at gunpoint over the rear of the car - hands up, legs apart - are part of the everyday texture of life in downtown Washington.

This city has invisible lines that no one in his, and especially her, right mind crosses. Those lines move a couple of blocks further east in daylight, but they are not obliterated by the sunshine.

Which is why the triple murder at Starbucks coffee-shop was so shocking. It took place in what the newspaper reports described (not entirely correctly) as the city's "luxury" area of Georgetown - the area of north-west Washington that is regarded as the preserve of the intelligentsia, the politicians and the media. With its narrow quiet and leafy streets, lined with low-build pastel houses, it is thought of as the most European part of town.

It was home to the likes of John F. Kennedy, and Pamela Harriman, the proprietor of

the Washington Post, Katharine Graham, and legions of Washington politicians live there. It is stuffed with small shops and restaurants (some permanent, some not) and is one of the few parts of the city where home, work and entertainment are all within walking distance.

No one would say Georgetown was "safe" in European terms.

But, as one resident commented after the Starbucks murders, "we had robberies, sure, but murders - no."

This is why people, and businesses, move to Georgetown. There is money, a clientele, and a degree of security not found in much of DC.

"This is what we moved from Georgetown to get away from," said the owner of a small business close to the coffee-shop.

everyone knows what happened, takes a fleeting glance, and turns away.

The police have interviewed disgruntled former employees, and are silent about a theory that, because the shop was mostly white, middle-class north-west Washington often feel they are "punished" for their absence by the neglect of Mayor Marion Barry and his black-dominated town hall.

But there is no disguising the underlying fear. Georgetown was never crime-free; the crime reports published each week in the local paper (mostly burglaries, robberies (some armed), assaults etc, street by street, and they include (if you are familiar with the street numbers) Georgetown. But murder verging on terrorism is different.

The site too, a branch of the ubiquitous and fashionable Seattle-based cafe chain, which has almost alone rehabilitated the premises for chocs and coffee-drinking in the United States, seemed appallingly inappropriate for such a crime.

Starbucks, in Georgetown, yuppie-haven in elitesville.

Some local residents fear that this is just a harbinger of things to come. Could the zero-tolerance police policy that Washington is pushing bring crime to the privileged fringe?

Are those who bought the illusion of safety now vulnerable? Residents of predominantly white, middle-class north-west Washington often feel they are "punished" for their absence by the neglect of Mayor Marion Barry and his black-dominated town hall.

Robbers are appalling, repair, uncoordinated council services hapazard. Will safety, too, be sacrificed? But Georgetown is not giving up without a struggle. Latest reports of the murders have mysteriously shifted the location to Burleigh, the less chic area at Georgetown's west edge. "This is stretching a point, but if it makes the residents feel better (and keeps house prices high), it may stick."

The truth is, though, that if the murders had really happened in Burleigh, they might have sunk almost unnoticed into the morass of Washington day-to-day crime.

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Parliament in pursuit of the wrong priorities

Put Baroness Tallyho on television, and most people are filled with an uncontrollable desire not just to ban hunting, but cursing with lurchers, beagling and the wearing of waxed jackets and green wellies. Not to mention a sudden conviction that the House of Lords should be abolished outright – hereditaries and life peers alike. But then something strange happens. Listen to Linda Richards put the case for banning hunting, and we are suddenly filled with an equal and opposite conviction: Leave Country Sports Alone. Let archaic toffs and their followers dress up and charge about the countryside. They may be horrid to foxes, but we do all kinds of horrible things to animals and no one promises a free vote on compulsory vegetarianism.

The argument about fox-hunting, then, is a case of the unappealing in debate with the illogical. Emotive agitation and disingenuousness rear up on both sides. But clear it all aside, and certain simple facts stand out. First, fox hunting is a ghastly business – not so much because the killing of foxes is offensive, or even the tearing apart of them while still alive (even though both of these things are repulsive), but the fact that this is organised by people as a sport. The idea of taking pleasure in the kill, and of primitive practices such as "blooding", are nasty supplements to the business of controlling the

fox population. If hunters donned black puritan gear for the chase and staged a decent funeral for the sad but necessary death of the fox, perhaps there would never have been such a fuss. Instead they dress like the squirearchy and have a good time. Making a sport of killing animals is wrong, and that is why the vast majority of people in this country disapprove of it.

But it does not follow that hunting should be banned. Many other activities of which most right-thinking people disapprove are nevertheless permitted to happen. Public opinion and this newspaper regard boxing as an utterly abhorrent pastime, which pretends to ennoble crass and brutish behaviour. That does not mean it should be banned. Controlled more tightly, perhaps, but the threshold above which legislation is required should be set quite high.

In the case of hunting, there needs to be a compelling reason, over and above public distaste, for legislation. True, the law can be used, and should be used where practicable, to prevent needless cruelty to animals. But the arguments about animal cruelty in relation to hunting are less clear-cut than anti-hunting campaigners allow. They seem curiously oblivious to the drawbacks of the main alternative, which is shooting. (Poisons and traps being more cruel and dangerous than



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hunting.) It would be better if all foxes were killed cleanly, but many opponents of hunting will also be most enthusiastic in support of Labour's determination to ban pistol shooting as a sport, and keepest to restrain the culture of guns.

The analogies drawn by both sides of the argument are faulty. Those who are against hunting always mention cock-fighting and badger-baiting, once good clean fun, now illegal. But the point about those "sports" is that they were organised solely for the amusement of the humans involved. Some foxes have to be killed because

they do not have natural predators, other than man. Equally, the argument about the amount of stress suffered by foxes or stags is specious. That argument swung the National Trust against hunting on its land, but you only have to watch BBC wildlife programmes from the comfort of your armchair to know that life in the wild is no picnic.

On the other side, the claim by the hunt-followers that a ban on their sport will lead inevitably to a ban on fishing is absurd. If the pressure for a ban on hunting is sustained by public opinion, this country has some way to go before the majority adopts the full vegan

manifesto. Nor are we illogical in this: only the fundamentalist mentality would fail to recognise a sliding scale of degrees of cruelty. Morally, setting a pack of dogs on a fox is worse than hooking a fish.

We should not be afraid to make these relative judgements, because then it becomes clear how far down the scale and how debatable cruelty to foxes lies. In this there is no absolute stance.

If there is a case for further legislation to stop needless cruelty to animals, then there is a case for requiring all pork, poultry and eggs to be free range.

But once the question of priorities is opened up, we arrive at the real issue here. Of all the important things on which Parliament could be spending its allegedly tightly-constrained time, banning fox-hunting is one of the least significant. Our preferences would be for a Freedom of Information Bill (an ideal opportunity for a backbencher), but many others suggest themselves.

That is the tragedy of Mike Foster's choice of Bill: having come top of the ballot for valuable private member's time, he will entangle his government in an unnecessary diversion from vastly more important matters. On the eve of yesterday's pro-hunt rally, the Prime Minister was trapped in the Commons into restating his opposition to fox-hunting – one of his less convincing

personal convictions. As a result, he alienated unnecessarily a relatively harmless minority group and was forced to squander some of the precious fund of goodwill upon which his government will need to draw in future. And for what? The salvation of some widely popular wild dogs, and the gratification of a popular desire to see country toffs cut down to size. It's not really worth it, is it?

Make it a Day to Remember

Are you sick of "days"? No Smoking Day. Leave Your Car At Home Day. Be Nice To Little Old Ladies Day. Take Your Child To Work Day? Yesterday, it seems, was National Sick Day: thousands took the day off sick because they could not for some reason feel well enough to work for British Airways or to stand on a picket line. One suspects a few more discovered they had an important engagement in Hyde Park. Many more no doubt stayed at home to protest at the proliferation of days, of which there are demonstrably too many. Good thing there was no Test Match or Tim Henman game to watch: there would have been nobody left at work.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EU farm madness rages on

Sir: Your headline "Europe to end farm madness" (9 July) should not get readers too excited. The proposals are dimly and more than welcome, but they are a long way from the radical reform that is needed. What's more, they still have to make it through the European Council of Agriculture Ministers, where farm madness begins (Jack Cunningham excluded, of course).

These proposals will not mean a saving in the agricultural budget and the EU will continue to pay vast sums of money to those who don't need it. There are no planned changes in the sugar regime which costs the EU around 2bn ecu a year. There are no plans to change milk quotas. We will still pour almost £1bn into tobacco when 90 per cent of the crop has no market value. The combined cost of the olive oil and tobacco regimes is higher than the entire EU research budget. Have we got our priorities right?

The European Commission has come up with proposals they believe will be politically acceptable, and Commissioner Fischer should be congratulated on this. But save the celebrations – farm madness is far from over. TERRY WYNN MEI (Merseyside East and Wigan, Lab) Brussels

Sir: You report that the Common Agricultural Policy is to be reformed because it is hugely expensive, but that under the new proposed system spending on agriculture will rise by £3.5bn. Every other business has to make a living without subsidy and hand-outs. Can anybody tell me why farming is so different? The Rev DAVID E FLAVELL Peterlee, Co Durham

Sir: Like you, we welcome reports from Brussels that the Commission is to propose a further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy including, among other things, a sharp cut in support prices for grain.

You do, however, risk misleading your readers by suggesting that there is a direct link between these support prices and market prices. Indeed it is several years since significant quantities of wheat were sold into UK intervention and a more recent phenomenon has been the imposition of export taxes to prevent European cereals prices rising to world levels.

All of which is not to deny the desirability of a market-orientated policy for agriculture which is responsive to genuine consumer demand. As we all know, however, markets can move up as well as down and, depending on the level of world stocks, invariably will. JOHN MURRAY Director-General National Association of British and Irish Millers London SW1

Rural workers back hunt ban

Sir: Charlie Pye-Smith ("Hunt ban will hit rural workers", 9 July) suggested that there would be huge job losses if hunting with hounds were banned. As the only legitimate trade union representing rural workers, we are convinced that there are very few jobs totally dependent on hunting with hounds and where there are problems, we believe these can be dealt with by diversifying into other activities



such as dog-hunting. The article proposes that 3,910 people are directly employed in hunting and suggests that another 10,000 would be indirectly affected. Meanwhile the full-page advertisement in the same issue of *The Independent*, funded by the "Countrywide Alliance Fighting Fund", states that 60,000 jobs are threatened. This is an example of the way wildly varying figures are thrown around by the pro-hunt lobby. We have to accept that there are no reliable figures on the number of workers directly involved with hunting.

The T&G policy of opposition to hunting with hounds was determined democratically by the Rural and Agricultural Workers Trade Group at its national conference, with representatives from rural areas all over the UK. It is simply not the case that all or even most rural people support hunting.

BARRY LEATHWOOD National Secretary, Rural, Agricultural and Allied Workers Transport & General Workers' Union London SW7

Sir: Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, has been quoted as suggesting that the foot packs in his constituency should be exempt from the proposed ban on hunting, apparently on the grounds that they exist for the eradication of foxes rather than for the pleasures of the chase.

Are we then to look forward to inspectors from his department descending on the hunts at intervals to ensure that none of their human participants are enjoying themselves? WILLIAM HALE Manchester

Fears that haunt the Orangemen

Sir: I have had enough of the continued demonstration of the Orange Order on your letters pages. I am not a member of the Order, but understand the feelings of those who are. It is not a "symbol of Protestant domination", or the next of kin to the British Union of Fascists, with a "belief in its own superiority" (Letters, 10 July).

Perhaps those that condemn the Order should ask why people still feel they need to belong to a group established for their protection over 200 years ago.

Maybe it is because they have seen their neighbours brutally murdered and injured for over 30 years, in many cases simply for being Protestant. They have seen families in border areas intimidated from their homes.

These people then see the concerned residents of the Garvaghy Road deliberately select a convicted terrorist as their spokesman. That is not the act of a group with any real interest in settling the issue. Is it any wonder they feel themselves threatened?

The sooner people realise there are two sides to every story, the sooner the unionists of Northern Ireland can start to feel secure about their position. Then perhaps the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland who want peace will be able to get on with sorting out our own problems. ALAN ARMSTRONG Lisnaskea, Co Fermanagh

Sir: What celebrations of cultural identity take place where the local residents have to be bated off the streets and then panned in their homes by riot police? Is this how the Notting Hill Carnival traditionally begins, or your local Armistice Day parade? The Orange Order marches in Northern Ireland are celebrations not of Protestant cultural heritage but of sectarian triumphalism.

The Portadown march has made it plain to every Ulster Catholic that when push comes to shove, the forces of law and order cannot be relied upon to act impartially, but are liable to act in concert with the forces of loyalist bigotry.

Who then can they look to for protection of their lives and homes but the IRA?

Mo Mowlam's decision also has a huge bearing on the forlorn peace process and arms decommissioning. Sinn Féin/IRA should say that there can be no decommissioning until such provocative marches stop going through Catholic areas, and the police and Army can prove that they will stand up to Unionist intimidation by protecting Catholic residents.

As someone who grew up in the Ulster Protestant tradition, I express my solidarity with the residents of Garvaghy Road. I have far more in common with them than with the Orangemen who have hijacked my culture and claim to speak in my name. LAURIE McDOWELL London N2

Fuelling dispute in space

Sir: I feel I should correct Dr High (Letters, 8 July) in an attempt to keep environmentalists' bad name for scientific literacy from getting any worse.

Most liquid-fuelled rockets use liquid hydrogen as the fuel. The liquid oxygen Dr High refers to is the oxidant without which the fuel will not burn. The exhaust gas of this reaction between oxygen and hydrogen is that well-known pollutant dihydrogen oxide. Although dangerous in large quantities in its liquid form, as a vapour it is not a greenhouse gas and has no effect on the ozone layer. In fact it seems to have a role in actually reducing atmospheric temperature. Space scientists agree that its absence from the Venusian atmosphere contributes greatly to Venus's high temperature.

Dihydrogen oxide is usually called by its common name: water. NELSON CUNNINGTON Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Tito's mole

Sir: John Earle writes (Letters, 9 July) that James Klugmann briefed him for his mission to Serbia in a fair and balanced way. The reason was that Mr Earle was going to Serbia and would have been able to see for himself the situation there.

Mr Earle was not the only one who was impressed by Klugmann. Even Royal Yugoslav officers who

were sent to Serbia during 1942 and 1943, having been briefed by officers of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) in Cairo, found Klugmann charming and better informed on Yugoslavia than his colleagues.

However, the point is that from mid-1943 SOE Cairo were retransmitting to London reports on the situation in Serbia received from William Deakin and Fitzroy Maclean, who were with Tito in the western part of Yugoslavia and never set foot in Serbia. After the war British liaison officers who served with Mihailovic and his Serb fighters, including Brigadier Armstrong, Major Rothman, Major Jack and Captain Lees, complained that their important reports were either suppressed by SOE Cairo (later Bari) or sent with considerable delay to London. ALEKSA GAVRILOVIC Stafford

Colour harmony

Sir: The festive gown for the Cambridge Doctor of Music is exotic and beautiful: cream damask, lined with dark-cherry satin. The protectors admired and approved Dame Kiri Te Kanawa's style of dress when she was awarded this degree *honoris causa* on Tuesday; it complemented her gown perfectly, and she appeared equally exotic and beautiful ("Dame Kiri Strikes a different note", 9 July).

We have heard no note of discord on this issue whatsoever, within the university. DJH GARLING Senior Proctor OLIVER RACKHAM Junior Proctor The Old Schools University of Cambridge

BA's sanctions against strikers

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith ("Punishment, fear and humiliation – the bully's way", 8 July), says that I have been unreasonable towards British Airways staff. His accusations are unfair, and much of his argument naïve.

This is not a dispute which is based on reasonable grounds. There is no justification for this strike. The agreement has been accepted by the other union representing cabin crew. The only reason for implementing this deal without the consent of the union BASSA is that they walked out and refused to discuss the deal with us during the process which we arranged months ago.

Rather than negotiate, BASSA called for a strike, which is damaging our company and causing great distress to our customers. It is surely the responsibility of those who take such an important decision to be sure there is good reason to do so, and it is our responsibility to encourage all staff to ignore a call for industrial action where there is not. It is only right that they should consider very seriously indeed the consequences of their actions, which could damage all of their colleagues at British Airways. Given these circumstances, it is surely naïve to argue that there should be no sanctions for those willing to cause such disruption.

To say that this indicates that British Airways does not fully accept the right of people to belong to a trade union is ridiculous. British Airways recognises more trade unions than any other large employer in this country, and we have already reached agreements with unions representing over 30,000 of our staff.

We are doing everything we can to let our staff come to work, as most of them want to. Our overriding concern throughout this dispute has been our customers, and we are doing everything possible to ensure that they are inconvenienced as little as possible throughout this difficult time. ROBERT AYLING Chief Executive British Airways Hounslow, Middlesex

Deadly drivers

Sir: Isn't it likely that a car that protects its occupants in a crash inflicts greater damage to other vehicles it collides with, and thus their occupants ("Tests show that even 'safe' cars can kill", 2 July)? This is apart from injury to all pedestrians hit.

There is evidence that drivers who perceive themselves to be protected within their car are less safety conscious in the way they drive, thus transferring the danger to others. The rational way to build safety into car design would be to ensure that the person most at risk in an accident is the driver. CHRISTOPHER PADLEY Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

God's fault

Sir: Austin Pielou (Letters, 5 July) suggests that we must draw the line somewhere when it comes to apologising for our past. I do not know how much attention God pays to the daily lives of us mere mortals, but let us not encourage him to also apologise for the problems that he has caused lest he should decide to start everything all over again. GAVIN LAWRENCE Cambridge

essay

The colour Orange

On the eve of the Orange Order's main anniversary, David McKittrick charts its long, bloody history and its paradoxical status as supporter of, and threat to, the establishment

One of the many extraordinary things about the Orange Order is its capacity to maintain its self-image of respectability in the face of a torrent of criticism. It contains, for example, a great many clergymen and devout Protestants who genuinely regard it as the essence of law-abiding Christianity and good order.

The Order takes its name from William of Orange, whose defeat of the Catholic King James II at the Battle of the Boyne is celebrated every 12th July. One of its most hallowed texts sets out the ideal Orangeman: "He should cultivate truth and justice, brotherly kindness and charity, devotion and piety, concord and unity and obedience to the laws; his deportment should be gentle and compassionate." It has sometimes been difficult to discern such high-minded sentiments, for example when Orangemen triumphantly hold up five fingers as they parade past a spot where five Catholics were shot dead.

The last three marching seasons produced widespread disorder, a momentary breakdown of law and order and what a Presbyterian minister has described as "Northern Ireland's Chernobyl", with almost a meltdown in community relations. While other elements bear some responsibility, it is the Order's metronomic determination to march through hostile Catholic areas that has time and again occasioned serious disturbance. It was ever thus, for throughout its two-century history the Order has left behind a trail of troubles.

In 1864, after Belfast was racked with riots that over 18 days left 12 dead and 100 injured, an official inquiry reported: "Belfast is liable to periodic disturbances on occasions well known as the Orange anniversaries. If the celebration of these anniversaries be attended with such risk, we might well ask why any party should obstinately adhere to it."

"Can neither the discouragement of

the powerful and influential nor the adverse opinion of the wise and good induce those who indulge in such vain and mischievous displays to remember the claims of citizenship, or charity, or of civilisation?"

One of the factors in helping the Order sustain itself through the recurring bouts of criticism is the fact that those in authority have traditionally alternated between criticising it and co-opting it into the system. There is an extraordinary historical pattern of the Order sometimes undermining the stability of the north of Ireland and sometimes acting as one of its most fundamental props. This was the case right from the Order's foundation in the last years of the 18th century, not far from Drumcree in County Armagh, then as now one of the hottest of places. It was forged in the crucible of sectarian conflict there from precursors such as the Peep O'Day boys.

Set up after a gang of Catholics had bested a gang of Protestants in a clash fuelled by land hunger and sectarianism, the Order helped drive 7,000 Catholics out of the county in just two months. Catholics were threatened: "Now Teak this for Waring. For if you Bee in this Contry Wednesday Night I will Blow your Soul to the Low hills of hell And Burn the House you are in."

Such methods, coupled with its rapid growth, initially alarmed the government, but with republican rebellion in the air the authorities swiftly moved to co-opt the Order as a counter-revolu-

tionary force. A magistrate spelt out the official calculation: "As for the Orangemen, we have a difficult card to play; they must not be entirely discredited - on the contrary, we must in a certain degree uphold them for, with all their licentiousness, on them we must rely for the preservation of our lives and properties, should critical times occur."

So it proved. The landed gentry moved quickly to assume leadership of the Order, instilling discipline and deference into what had originally been denounced as "lawless banditti". In Napoleonic times 25,000 regular troops were augmented by 20,000 yeomen, almost all of them Orangemen, who played an important part in putting down the United Irishmen's rebellion of 1798. The brutality employed was legendary, a British officer noting: "Hundreds and thousands of wretches were butchered while unarmed on their knees begging mercy; and it is difficult to say whether soldiers, yeomen or militia men took most delight in their bloody work."

The subsequent history of Orangism continues the pattern of paradoxical duality, alternately undermining authority and upholding it. At one stage its Grand Master was the Duke of Cumberland, but then it was banned in 1825 because of worries about the extent of its penetration of the army, which was found to contain many Orange lodges. In the north of Ireland it remained in existence despite the ban, though for much of the 19th century it was deserted by the upper classes and had little prestige. Freed from its deferential posture, the century experienced what might be called the golden age of the Orange riot.

In 1813 Belfast experienced its first religious riot when an Orange procession marched into a Catholic street. Two

were killed and four injured, but this turned out to be a minor affair. 1829 brought major disorder in 11 different locations, with at least 16 deaths. Back in County Armagh the first service at Drumcree had taken place in 1807; the first arrests were in 1833, while the first Catholic death, in 1835, was followed in 1869 by the first Protestant fatality.

But it was Belfast which saw the worst of the violence with repeated riots during the marching season, most of them following Orange demonstrations, 12 major disturbances taking place between 1813 and 1886. One report said: "The celebration of that [Orange July] festival is plainly and unmistakably the originating cause of these riots," adding that the occasion was used "to remind one party of the triumph of their ancestors over those of the other, and to incite the feelings of Protestant superiority over their Roman Catholic neighbours".

In the 1880s, contact with the upper classes was re-established when the threat of home rule appeared on the horizon. The Tory Lord Randolph Churchill famously said that if Gladstone "went for home rule, the Orange card would be the one to play. Please God it may turn out the ace of trumps and not the two."

This was the beginning of an alliance between Tories, the Unionist business classes and the Order. As in the late 18th century, Orangemen were co-opted as part of a wider game. Orange lodges provided the framework for a citizen's army, the Ulster Volunteer Force, whose threat of force played a large part in persuading London that the largely Protestant north should be exempted from home rule. The UVF drilled in the Orange halls; then tens of thousands, at

the trying of their new leaders, joined the British army to fight in the First World War. Thousands lost their lives. Many were cut down at Thepval wood, on the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne, one witness recounting: "As they scrambled over the parapet they shouted the old battle cries, 'No surrender' and 'Remember 1690'. Many wore Orange ribbons and one sergeant of the Inniskillings had on his Orange sash."

From the outset, the new state of Northern Ireland looked on a distinctly Orange coloration. An Orange lodge was established within the new police force, the RUC, while Orangemen made up the bulk of a new militia, the B Specials. In some areas the B Specials were based in Orange halls.

Politically too Orangism became an integral part of the state. James Craig, Northern Ireland's first prime minister, declaring: "I have always said I am an Orangeman first and a politician afterwards." A majority of Unionist cabinet ministers and MPs between then and 1972 were members of the Order; most Orange party meetings were held in Orange halls, while ministers used Orange platforms for important speeches. The power of the Order during those years has been described by two senior Methodists: "Membership was an indispensable condition of political advancement. It protected the employment of Protestants by its influence over employers, which is a polite way of saying that it contrived systematic discrimination against Catholics. Local authorities were dominated by members of the local lodges."

While nationalist marches were severely restricted, Orange marches became part of the fabric of Unionist rule, with the 12th of July effectively

becoming what has been described as a ritual of state. More than once, though, the Unionist government banned marches on public order grounds, only to back down under Orange pressure. The most notable example came in 1935 when it banned all processions. Faced with angry Orange opposition it relented and exempted Orange marches from the ban. In the subsequent docting 11 people were killed, hundreds injured, more than 500 families driven from their homes and more than 2,000 Catholics expelled from their workplaces.

In modern times, even as the authorities grapple with the marching problem, they continue to rely on the Order for manpower. No figures are available for the numbers of security force personnel who are Orangemen, but the Order has made it known that around 13 per cent of RUC officers killed in the Troubles and around a quarter of Ulster Defence Regiment victims were members.

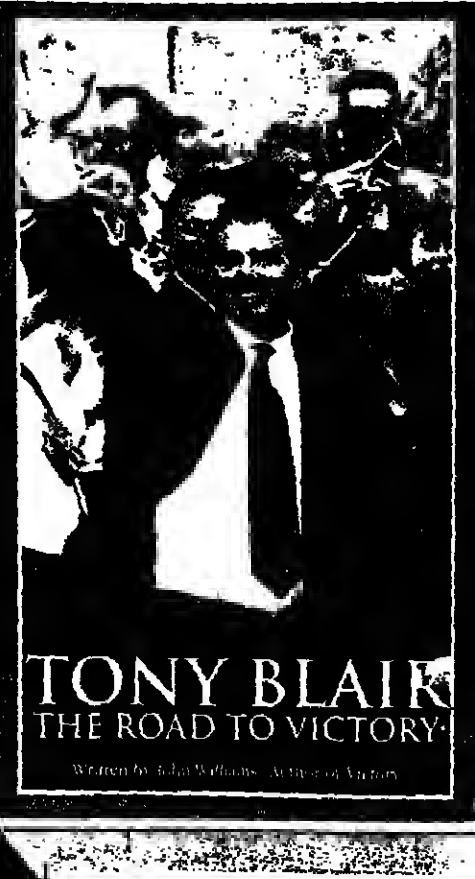
Today, as the shadow of the 12th of July looms once again, the Government would dearly love the Order to call off or re-route its more contentious marches. If it does not then the authorities can opt for bans or re-routing, yet they are all too painfully aware that these can lead to major trouble.

At worst, as at Drumcree last year, a show of Orange determination can succeed in forcing the authorities to give way and reverse their decision, thus undermining law and order once again. This Government, like all the others down through the centuries, knows that taking on the Orange Order means confronting one of Northern Ireland's most powerful pressure groups, and touching the deepest and most sensitive nerve of the Protestants of Ulster.



Triumphalism: Ormeau Road 1992, an Orangeman holds up five fingers as a parade passes the spot where five Catholics were shot dead by loyalist terrorists

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Want to be a journalist? Read on...

Young people occasionally ask me how they can get into journalism. No, that's not quite true. What usually happens is that their parents tell me that their children are desperate to get into journalism and ask me how they should go about it...

"Jeremy has worked on his school and university magazines and got a lot of experience."

"Right!"

"He was once on a school trip to *The Times* and caught the bug then."

"Of course he really wants to be a TV journalist, but you obviously have to go through the mill on the press side first."

"Do you? I mean, right?"

"So how would you recommend him to get into journalism?"

"I haven't the faintest idea."

They don't want that answer, honest though it is. They don't want me to tell them how I got into journalism (sitting at home for four years, writing stuff and sending it off). They don't want me to tell them to do a course or work up from the

bottom. They want a quick, clever answer. And I suddenly realised the other day that I do have a quick, clever answer.

I realised this because I became aware that we were nearing the end of the exam season and I still hadn't seen an article in a paper by a teenager called "My A-level Hell".

I see it almost every year. Some bright spark who has been through A-levels says to someone else: "Adults just don't know what it's like going through A-levels, because adults don't do exams any more," and the other one says: "Someone should tell them," and one of them has the brilliant idea of writing an article about it and sending it off to a paper. Someone at the paper picks it up and thinks: "Hmm, we haven't had a 'My A-level Hell' piece this year. Might as well run it."

And they do, because A-levels are one of the few things along with puberty, adolescence, teenage delinquency, teen drugs and their first sexual experiences, that the average journalist can never again experience. So the teenage writer gets his piece in the paper and then one of two things happens.



Miles Kingston

Either he (or she) spends the money and forgets all about it, or she (or he, of course) gets the bug and starts writing more articles.

There are lots of things that a budding teenage writer can write about, all to do with being young, or at least being a lot younger than the journalists who will be accepting the article. May I suggest a few random headings for the budding journalist?

"What Yonh REALLY thinks about drugs."

"How to Handle Parents." "Spice Girls? Too Old for Me..."

"Why I Didn't Vote." "Tim Henman a Role Model? You Must be Joking!" "I'd Like to Give Up Smoking, But I Haven't Taken it Up Yet..." "My First Day at University."

Now, all these things have something in common, which is that they represent subjects that middle-aged people are interested in - party politics, sex, lost college days. They are the very topics which the harassed features editor at the newspaper should be talking to his teenage children about, but isn't. So the harassed features editor takes articles like this as a sort of short cut to finding out what his own children are thinking, or even a substitute for talking to them. And once the young journalist has had half a dozen articles like this accepted, he or she is well on the way to being one of this year's bright new faces.

From my days at *Punch* I can remember one or two writers starting like this, and I am not talking about Alan Coren's family. I can remember the student competition we organised for the best piece on the subject: "What I did in the holidays".

Winner, Libby Purves. (She had worked for Radio Oxford in her holidays.) Another competition, a light verse one, was won by Tom Douglas, now the BBC's media correspondent.

But the best entrée to journalism I can remember was that of a young man who had not set out to become a journalist at all. He had set out to become a novelist. Indeed, he had written to all the living novelists he could think of asking them for advice on novel-writing, and quite a lot, including such famous ones as Graham Greene, had written back with friendly advice.

Did he set to and write a novel? Did he hell. He put all the postcards and letters together and made a feature out of them, which one of the Sunday papers published under a title like: "Hot Tips From The Great Novelists!" The day that this young man accepted money for his private correspondence and turned his back on their advice was the day that he decided not to be a novelist but to become a journalist instead.

I wonder what happened to him.

Alexander Cordell

At last, the cynical kind of democracy in which he had lived. The death of Alexander has not yet been confirmed. His body was found in a stream near the quarry and is still there for the police to find. He was clutching a small object in his hand. The police say it is not a suspect.

Mele Stephen

Under Graber (Alexander III), novelist: born 9 September 1909, married (one daughter) near Longolles, 1939, died 19 July 1997.

In addition to his own family, there was his theatre family, which comprised all the people who worked for him at the Alex. "DS" greeted them individually every morning—he was always the first to arrive. His audiences, too, he welcomed in the foyer and there bade them farewell after each performance.

In 1944 one Brummie, the

Section 12 had to be read as a whole and not piecemeal. The kind of bodies to which it referred were those similar to authorities which were empowered to grant qualifications or recognition for the purpose of practising a profession, calling, trade or activity.

Section 12, referring as it did to an authority which conferred recognition or approval, referred to a body which had the power or authority to confer on a person a professional qualification or other approval needed to enable him

to practise a profession, exercise a calling or take part in some other activity. It did not refer to a body which was not so authorised or empowered, but which stipulated that for the purpose of its commercial agreements a particular qualification was required. The appeal was accordingly dismissed.

Norton Rose report prompts resignations

Andrew Regan

Pound drops as Bank raises base rate

It lost more than a pfennig against the German mark to end at just under DM12.7. Steven Bell, chief economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "This reflects the number of people who had hoped for more and decided to take profits."

Many in the City were predicting another rate rise next month, although this will depend on a series of economic figures due in the next few weeks.

Judge criticises receivers' bill for Maxwell estate

Treasury soften Fed

"Whilst we cannot comment on the details of what is an unusual and untypical case, we warmly welcome many of the principles set out in the judgment."

£50m Jarvis rail deal under fire

Paris Moayed, Jarvis chairman, described the allegations that plant hire prices would double as "absolute nonsense".

Eurotunnel sees off liquidation threat as investors back rescue

go ahead and then it required the support of 75 per cent of the votes cast to get the restruc-

INTERES

£200,000] salary, then we will follow you. Otherwise we cannot trust you."

debt restructuring plan being passed by both Eurotunnel's shareholders and its banking

banks, led by Lazard Freres, have acquired nearly a quarter of Eurotunnel's debt.

CURRENCIES

£/\$

Year	Rate
1986	1.70
1987	1.75
1988	1.70
1989	1.75
1990	1.70
1991	1.75
1992	1.70
1993	1.75
1994	1.70
1995	1.75
1996	1.70

£/DM

Year	Rate
1986	2.20
1987	2.30
1988	2.20
1989	2.30
1990	2.20
1991	2.30
1992	2.20
1993	2.30
1994	2.20
1995	2.30
1996	2.20

£/¥

Year	Rate
1986	155
1987	150
1988	155
1989	150
1990	155
1991	150
1992	155
1993	150
1994	155
1995	150
1996	155

Pound

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
£ (London)	1.6855	-0.56c	1.5535
£ (N.York)	1.6875	+0.05c	1.5570
DM (London)	2.9597	-0.19c	2.7660
¥ (London)	150.040	-30.85c	171.07c
\$/Index	104.1	-0.1	86.5

Dollar

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
£ (London)	0.5933	+0.20	0.6437
£ (N.York)	0.5935	-0.02	0.6423
DM (London)	1.7619	+0.47c	1.524c
¥ (London)	112.750	+10.10	102.125
\$/Index	102.3	+0.18	97.1

OTHER INDICATORS

Yield

	Yesterday	Day's chg	Year Ago
On 3Mtre 91	18.22	-0.16	19.94
Gold 5	318.45	-1.55	383.20
Gold C	189.52	-0.27	246.32

Index

	Index	Latest	Yr Ago	Fixed Exps
RPI	157.5	+0.4c	153.0	25 Jul
GDP	109.7	+2.60c	107.0	29 Jul
Base Rates	-	6.50pc	6.75	-

Treasury plans to soften FIDs blow

ment to simply say it is not now abolishing FIDs. That would be

defined as companies wholly owned by foreign parents, would be allowed to continue paying FIDs.

22
business

Britain's financial services industry made record overseas earnings of almost £23bn last year. The industry's contribution to the balance of payments rose by £2bn in 1996 and has nearly doubled during the 1990s, writes Diane Coyle.

Banking and insurance were the biggest net earners. But pension funds' earnings have been growing most rapidly, according to the annual "City" earnings table published by British Invisibles. The balance of payments

surplus generated by financial services helps offset deficits in other areas.

Recent official figures showed there was an overall deficit of £435m last year, with trade in goods in the red by £12.6bn. In 1995, the latest year for which all the figures are available, financial services was the only

category, apart from oil, to record a significant balance of payments surplus, although some others, such as the music business and shipping, recorded smaller surpluses.

Duncan McKenzie, economic adviser for British Invisibles, said: "Further growth in its overseas earnings reflects the consolidation

and strengthening of London's leading position in many financial markets."

He said the strong pound would not necessarily dent the sector's overseas earnings this year. Although exports of financial services were vulnerable to the high exchange rate, it would increase the other component of

the City's earnings, investment income, in sterling terms.

Both income from services and income from investments increased last year. Services earnings rose £162m to £12.8bn, and investment income by £1.8bn to £9.8bn. Banks' total net earnings made up ground lost in 1995 partly as a result of the collapse of Barings.

They climbed from £5.9bn to £7.1bn in 1996.

The insurance sector's earnings fell slightly last year, from £6.9bn to £6.1bn. This partly reflected the fact that Lloyd's had a more successful year and therefore distributed significant profits to overseas members for the first time in five years.

Net overseas earnings of pension funds jumped by a fifth to £2.3bn, continuing their strong upward path. There were mixed results for other institutional investors, with gains for fund managers but declines for unit and investment trusts.

Securities dealers, whose performance is relatively volatile, had a good year in 1996, with a £432m rise to £2.2bn. The earnings of other traders, including commodity traders and bullion dealers, reached a record £642m.

Financial services earn £23bn overseas

Beckett set to rule out utility profit-sharing

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

The Government looks poised to jettison a key policy proposal intended to reform the privatised utilities, by ruling out a system of profit-sharing to cream off excess company profits.

The wide-ranging review of utility regulation, launched last week by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, is almost certain to conclude that an annual profit-sharing mechanism, though attractive in theory, would be too complicated and bureaucratic to operate in practice.

Instead, the review is likely to focus on radical plans to give consumers a much greater say in decisions by regulators, along with guarantees that poorer customers would not lose out after the introduction of domestic electricity and gas competition.

The decision to sideline profit-sharing has pointed to tensions within the DTI over the interdepartmental review, which ministers fear could be watered down by civil servants, many of whom created the existing regime under the Conservatives.

Labour's final proposals for utility reform before the elec-

tion envisaged retaining the price mechanism used in most privatisations, which limits customer bills using a formula based on inflation. To supplement this Labour proposed a system of profit-sharing, where utility companies would be set a ceiling for earnings each year. Any excess profits would have to be shared with customers through lower bills or rebates.

The intention of the system was to combine the regulatory certainty and incentives of the inflation-based regime with guaranteed benefits for consumers. Its architects were concerned that price caps typically lasting four or five years lacked the flexibility to cream off unexpected efficiency gains. An earlier proposal for a US-style price-setting mechanism based on rates of return was ruled out long before the poll.

Less than two weeks into the review the DTI has identified several barriers to the policy, including the difficulty of designing a complex mechanism to calculate profit ceilings for each of the companies. Another concern was that competition emerging in the water and electricity sectors would eliminate the need for detailed price regulation.

One suggestion could be to

apply profit-sharing to a smaller group of monopoly utilities which will never be subject to competition, including BG, responsible for the gas pipeline network, and National Grid. However, these companies have recently been forced to make large one-off price cuts by regulators, reducing their capacity to make excess earnings in the first place. Similar one-off reductions are due in the water industry in 2000.

Mrs Beckett appeared to recognise some of these difficulties when she launched the review. She said: "I am anxious, however, that we consider fully the practicalities of such a proposal." The Government did not want to control companies "by the back door".

Moves to reject profit-sharing would be strongly supported by utility companies, which argued they would reduce their incentive to make bigger efficiency improvements. Industry regulators had also questioned the change.

They are likely to be less happy with the latest thinking on consumer representation. The review is considering moving beyond the existing system of customer committees to widen the public consultation during price reviews.



Keith Edelman: Shareholder wanted to know why he 'seemed to walk on water'

Storehouse chief's pay package questioned

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

Storehouse, the retail group which has been plagued by weak sales and a plunging share price, came under fire from shareholders over boardroom pay yesterday. However, the share price surged 9 per cent later in the day following an upbeat trading statement that was made at the meeting.

Alan Smith, chairman of Storehouse, was forced to defend the chief executive, Keith Edelman, after one shareholder questioned his £728,000 pay package in a year during which the shares had fallen by a third and underperformed the retail sector by 30 per cent. "Why does Mr Edelman seem to walk on water?" one shareholder asked. The shareholder also asked why Mr Edelman had received higher bonuses than Sir Richard Greenbury, the chairman of Marks & Spencer, "who has guided that company to a £1bn profit".

Mr Smith responded by say-

ing the company's performance measures were "tough indeed" and that, far from being criticised, Mr Edelman "should be congratulated for the work he has done in bringing this company back from the brink of disaster".

He said Mr Edelman's total pay had gone down this year "and will go down next year too". There was better news for shareholders when Mr Smith unveiled the company's trading statement which showed that group sales in the first quarter were 14.5 per cent ahead of the same period last year. Of that total, the additional seven weeks of the Children's World acquisition had added 5.3 percentage points.

The combined Mothercare and Children's World sales were 10.8 per cent ahead while those at BHS were 3.5 per cent up.

Storehouse shares jumped 17p to 205p on the news, having touched a low of 185.5p earlier this month. However, analysts said the company would need to deliver good results more consistently if it was to win over its critics.

John Richards, of NatWest Securities, said: "There is still a lack of credibility with this company and I don't think there is enough in these figures to make a difference. The share price reaction is one of relief really. It's a start but there is still some way to go."

He pointed out that because Storehouse had started its summer sale early some of the sales growth would have been made at a lower margin.

There were lighter moments at the shareholders' meeting in central London yesterday. One shareholder, Henry Grimdale, asked why his local branch of BHS was still stocking Christmas puddings at Easter. "They were the size of thimbles," he said. Another said her family had held shares in Storehouse since 1925 "and I wonder if there is anyone in the room who has held shares longer?" Mr Smith said he would check and quipped: "At least those should have gone up since then."

IN BRIEF

• Shares in Skillsgroup plunged 35 per cent to 126.5p after the computer company, which recently changed its name from P&P, warned that difficult second-half trading in Europe would affect full-year results. Analysts said the shares had been harshly punished because although management would have been aware of the problem at its annual general meeting in April, it was not mentioned. Ross Jobber at housebroker UBS has cut his full-year forecast 19 per cent to £14.3m. While the group's newer IT training and systems businesses traded well in the half year to May, the problem rested in the group's traditional and declining computer box stuffing business. "The old dog barked today," said Mr Jobber.

• Scapa, the paper rollers to industrial tapes business, is to buy Sellotape Industrial Tapes, part of Sellotape International, for £41m cash. The move comes just weeks after David Dunn, chief executive, said he wanted Scapa to become a "worthy number two to 3M" in the fast-growing industrial tapes market. The group said the acquisition, which does not include domestic sticky tape, would build its market in supplying the printing, graphics and construction markets. Sellotape Industrial reported sales of £70m in 1996 and pre-tax profit of £5.2m. Scapa's shares closed up 2.5p to 209p.

• British Telecom was in breach of its operating licence in the way it runs its OneNumber personal numbering service, the regulator Ofcom said. BT had also failed to provide the network services for other operators to run voicemail services. The regulator said if BT wanted to continue to run OneNumber, it had until 31 October to make available the network services for competitors.

• The Investors' Compensation Scheme will be contacting customers of seven former investment firms now in default, inviting them to lodge formal applications for compensation. The firms are Colne Financial Planning Services of Colchester, Essex; Copeland Financial Services of Aldermaston, Berkshire; Durwen Group Limited of Chester, Cheshire; LMD International Investment Management Services of Barmham, Kent; Rakesh Kumar Sharma trading as RK Shoppe & Business Sales of Central Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire; Summit Insurance & Financial Consultants of Macclesfield, Cheshire; and P Webber & B Fisher trading as Roy Alexander & Company of Dawlish, Devon.

• Phonelink, the telephone information and marketing company, saw its share price tumble by 15.5p to 51p with investors disappointed with its results for the year to the end of March. Turnover was virtually unchanged on the previous year's £4.3m. Only a rise in net interest receivable enabled the company to reduce its loss from £6.7m to £6.2m. John Ramsey, the new chief executive who joined in January, has reduced the cash drain from £400,000 a month to £160,000, axing four directors and a third of the staff in the process. The shares were floated at 155p four years ago.

• BAA's UK airports handled 9.6 million passengers in June, an increase of 8.3 per cent year-on-year. Heathrow recorded an increase of 5 per cent, Gatwick 13 per cent and Southampton 15 per cent, followed by Stansted and Glasgow, which were both up 12 per cent. The European charter market increased 11 per cent, reflecting the recovery in the Mediterranean package holiday, and North Atlantic services increased 10 per cent.

• Mirror Group's £297m agreed bid for Midland Independent Newspapers has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, Nigel Griffiths, Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister said. The MMC will report its findings by 24 September.

Company Results

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Anglo Group (P)	8,250 (8,000)	0.1m (0.24m)	5.10p (3.01p)	0.23p (0.27p)
Barrick (P)	13.3m (12.6m)	2.74m (2.3m)	18.1p (14.7p)	7p (5.8p)
Barclays Bank (P)	44.7m (43.1m)	3.67m (3.44m)	17.3p (13.2p)	8p (5.5p)
Bentley Systems (P)	54.5m (47.1m)	0.6m (0.5m)	9.43p (7.12p)	1.73p (1.18p)
Biffaward King (P)	4.8m (4.7m)	0.27m (0.26m)	2.4p (2.3p)	1.75p (1.54p)
British Telecom (P)	138m (136m)	25.5m (21.3m)	31.9p (26.4p)	10p (8.5p)
Bullion Holdings (P)	- (-)	18.67m (16.90m)	112.33p (95.24p)	12.50p (-)
British Air (P)	- (-)	12.0m (9.3m)	31.9p (29.8p)	8p (7.3p)
British TV (P)	77.9m (73.7m)	1.6m (0.91m)	1.22p (0.88p)	0.125p (0.11p)
First Holdings (P)	74.8m (73.2m)	13.7m (12.8m)	8.16p (8.55p)	8p (6.5p)
Foodstuffs (P)	4.32m (4.35m)	-5.77m (4.71m)	-12.5p (17.3p)	nil (-)
Fullbrook (P)	10.5m (9.5m)	1.13m (0.96m)	14.83p (14.4p)	2.52p (2.28p)
Glaxo (P)	10.5m (17.9m)	6.5m (5.5m)	5.8p (5.5p)	1.3p (1.25p)
Whitbread (P)	- (-)	3.43m (3.72m)	22.32p (19.88p)	13.75p (12.50p)

(P) = Profit (L) = Loss (M) = Millions

Gartmore hires US custodian

Tom Stevenson
Financial Editor

Gartmore said yesterday it had contracted the Bank of New York to provide global custody services for £25bn of its assets under management. The deal transfers to the American bank responsibility for maintaining the security of the fund management group's assets and cash, collecting dividend income and ensuring cash is available for purchases.

The outsourcing arrangement follows the takeover of Gartmore by NatWest and its integration with NatWest Investment Management. Prior to

the merger, the two fund managers managed their own custodial arrangements with different systems and custodians.

Andrew Brown, joint chief executive of Gartmore, said: "In the fund management industry, as in other fields, specialisation has become the key to providing clients with the highest quality service. This outsourcing arrangement will allow Gartmore to focus on our core investment management strengths, while ensuring that our clients receive sufficient value-added custody services." The Bank of New York acts as sub-custodian for Gartmore in all overseas markets except

the US. The move, thought to be the highest outsourcing in Britain to a single custodian, affects about half of Gartmore's £50bn assets and around 300 of the firm's clients.

There has been a trend towards the outsourcing of custody services as fund managers have moved towards investing in a wide range of markets around the world. The skills and technology required to look after those diversified assets has become increasingly expensive, providing opportunities for global custodians such as the Bank of New York, which is estimated to be responsible for assets worth £1,800bn.

The guru's answer to anarchy in the office

David Maister believes he knows how to inspire an 'extra level of dedication' in professional firms. Roger Trapp reports

With few exceptions, professional firms like to shun the limelight. Since most of them remain private partnerships, they revel in the fact that they are not obliged to disclose the sort of financial data that their clients have long since grown used to publishing.

But now and again, despite their best efforts, they find themselves making the news for the wrong reasons - as has happened in recent weeks with the failure of the normally ruthlessly efficient Arthur Andersen accounting and consulting organisation to elect a chief executive and, more seriously, with the scrutiny of various firms' roles in the abortive bid for the Co-op.

Understandably enough, David Maister will not be drawn on individual cases, but Andersen's demonstration of the problems of choosing a leader when 2,700 people have a say adds credence to the guru of professional service firm management's belief that such organisations tend to be anarchies rather than democracies they pretend to be. Equally, the apparent scramble to advise the Andrew Regan team seeking to break up the Co-op can be seen as an example of a practice Mr Maister feels happens all

too often - "departing from strategy for short-term expediency". Professionals should remember the reputed slogan of the mighty investment bank Goldman Sachs, he says. "Be long-term greedy, don't be short-term greedy."

A Brit long settled in the United States, Mr Maister is a former professor at Harvard Business School who has been advising lawyers, accountants and other professionals around the world full-time for the past 12 years. It started, he says, with a theory that professional firms needed a different approach to management from other forms of business. When "it turned out to be factually true", he found himself with a career.

Though his columns in *Legal Business* and its US equivalent, *The American Lawyer*, attract a devoted readership, Mr Maister - whose second book, *The Professionalism* (Simon & Schuster, £16.99), is just out - differs from many gurus in insisting that "there is nothing new" to what he is

saying. Most of what he proposes firms know to be right; his role is to try to "give them the courage of their principles - not mine".

One of his approaches is to seek to convince professionals that they should be having fun. Using the fact that only about a third of those he questions would stick to their chosen career if they could earn the same amount doing something else, he sets out what they would be far more successful, and happier, if they concentrated on what they enjoyed and abandoned what did not fulfil them.

He claims to get about 95 per cent "intellectual agreement" with the notion, but admits that only about 15 per cent have the energy or enthusiasm to go out and try to change things. Most of the rest are too busy doing more of the same to speak out.

He likens this to his own inability to go on a diet: he knows it will be good for him, but he cannot quite bring him-

self to give up certain foods and so become healthier.

Much of the lack of enjoyment comes from working long hours - because firms have convinced themselves that profitability comes from achieving colossal amounts of billable work rather than impressing their clients - and from working with people who do not seem to be motivated by the same things as themselves.

This is where Mr Maister's view that firms are likely to be anarchies rather than democracies comes in. Though his first book was called *Managing The Professional Service Firm*, he believes that such organisations tend to be administered rather than managed. Increasingly, there are rules and regulations and targets to be met, but there is little in the way of inspirational management.

Consequently, when decisions are taken through votes they are not always regarded as law as they would be in a true democracy. Instead, those who

did not vote for a particular initiative feel that they have no responsibility to abide by it.

The answer to this, suggests Mr Maister, is to create a system of values that people can buy into - and, most importantly and difficult, to achieve - ensure that they are acting upon rather than just espoused.

As he says: "Strict financial controls may get people into compliance, but they will never inspire the extra level of intensity and dedication that creates excellence."

And, when he accepts there is "a grave risk" of all this sounding like inspirational morality, he clearly believes that the key to a successful professional service firm lies in principles. After all, professionals are always pointing out how they abide by ethics and have codes of honour.

However, he admits to being saddened that inside many professional firms the drive to be businesslike means that the idea that a principle can be a commercial point has been lost. It is not that professionals are as would be understandable - imperfectly matching up to their principles, but that they do not pretend to have values.



Only Hambros, the Bank of England, the Securities and Futures Authority and Norton Rose themselves know the full story leading up to yesterday's unsatisfactory public execution of line soldiers

Hambros dirty linen should see light of day

Sir Chips Keswick, chief executive of Hambros, believes he can now draw a line under his bank's involvement in the Co-op affair, he is as sadly misguided as when he rashly backed Andrew Regan in the first place. The ooo-publication yesterday of the Norton Rose report is about the most unsatisfactory outcome imaginable for the struggling bank.

After a truly extraordinary display of obfuscation by all sides yesterday, it finally emerged that Hambros is unable, for legal reasons, to hang out its dirty linen and have done with it. By design or otherwise, the Norton Rose inquiry was conducted under the terms of an obscure section of the Banking Act which ensures its contents must remain under wraps. Section 39, for those frivolous souls who haven't committed the Banking Act to memory, allows the Old Lady to override client confidentiality in its search for the truth about a bank's systems and controls. Once an investigation is conducted under this arcane provision, no-one, it seems, is allowed to say anything at all about its findings.

Which leaves us all boxing in the dark, as usual. Only Hambros, the Bank of England, the Securities and Futures Authority and Norton Rose themselves know the full story leading up to yesterday's unsatisfactory public execution of line soldiers. It is not possible to tell from Hambros' brief announcement either whether this is sufficient retribution, or even if it is just. The beautifully decorated generals in the boardroom must decide for themselves whether they have behaved honourably.

Clients of Hambros are meanwhile left wondering whether it is worth sticking with a corporate finance division that was so desperate to enhance its presence and improve its returns that it backed a wrong 'un and stuck with him well after it should have walked briskly away.

The SFA and the Bank of England will be taking a close look at the exact sequence of events during that hectic week in April when the full truth about Mr Regan's ill at the Co-op emerged. First they will want to know, as we all do, what Sir Chips Keswick and Lord Hambros knew and when they knew it. As always in these affairs, the exact question has to be if they didn't know, why didn't they know? For a manager it is hard to know which is the worse sin - knowing, or the negligence of not knowing. Failure to give a full and explicit answer to these questions may ultimately prove more damaging to the bank than the embarrassment of the affair itself.

No reasoned argument behind Budget criticism

Has the City's romance with New Labour run its course? The FTSE 100 and gilts are still well above their election-day levels, but the chaps who run our capital markets seem to have concluded that if the Prime Minister is against tax-cutting, then Labour's economic policies have become fair game for attack too. First of all, the Chancellor won't

wear black tie for the Lord Mayor's dinner, or drink a scotch during the Budget, and now New Labour is going to kill off our weekend sport as well.

City criticism of the Budget certainly seems more of a case of returning to traditional political allegiances than one of reasoned argument. The standard line in the City is that Gordon Brown's failure to get tough by taxing consumers is to blame for rising interest rates and the strong pound.

There are several holes in this rather flimsy argument. First, as Gavin Davies of Goldman Sachs, our Monday columnist, has pointed out, it is a standard economist's rule of thumb that it takes a £900 to £1000 net increase in taxes to do the same work in slowing growth as a 1 percentage point rise in interest rates. Few of the analysts now baying about the Budget were demanding a £100m tax squeeze two weeks ago.

More important, very few serious economists still think it is possible to fine-tune the business cycle by varying taxes and spending. Compared to monetary policy, fiscal policy is too slow, cumbersome and uncertain in its effects. Altering tax rates over the course of the business cycle also undermines the long-term stability of the economy by making it harder for businesses and consumers to plan. The Government would be committing a far greater mistake if it thought it right to put tuppence on taxes now and take it off again in a year's time. Above all, the reason the Bank of England is absolutely right to be

increasing interest rates now, despite the dilemma posed by the strong pound, is that the last Chancellor did not do enough in the run-up to the election. He turned down the Bank's advice for the five months before 1 May, and it is now clear that he was wrong.

A combination of higher borrowing costs and an overvalued exchange rate will slow down growth, perhaps quite sharply, and nobody is going to enjoy that very much. But the touchpaper on this boom is inevitable. There is nothing either the Chancellor or the Bank can do about it now apart from sticking to the very welcome new framework for setting long-term macroeconomic policies.

SAMs could change the mortgage market

Britain's stock of owner-occupied housing is apparently worth well over a trillion pounds. That's rather more than the entire quoted equity market in the UK and at least four times bigger than the gilt market. Yet it is also an asset base which remains entirely closed to institutional investors. Until now that is, SBC Warburg is next week launching an ingenious scheme for securitising the housing market, albeit in a small way to begin with, thus opening it up for the first time to pension funds, insurance companies and other institutional investors.

For pension funds, the possibility of

investing in residential housing is obviously an attractive one, made more so by the Government's abolition of tax credits on dividends. Though housing has come nowhere near enjoying the post-war return on equities, it is on the whole less volatile and over the long term pretty much inflation proofed.

Warburg is backing the security with what are called shared appreciation mortgages, or SAMs. In a SAM, the house owner gives up a proportion of any appreciation in the value of the property in return for a lower interest rate on the loan. Obviously this is not something anyone would want to do given the choice, but it does seem to hold attractions to certain types of borrower, especially those with negative equity and elderly "asset rich but cash poor" property owners.

Bank of Scotland is the only mortgage provider offering SAMs at present, and the take up in relation to the housing market as a whole is tiny. But properly marketed through intermediaries, SAMs could become a not insignificant part of the mortgage market. The really interesting question is whether, if this does prove a popular investment with institutional investors, it might in itself exert extra upward pressure on the housing market. Theoretically it should, for it represents a previously untapped flow of funds into the sector. However, it would take a veritable explosion in this type of security to make much impact on a trillion pound market place. Warburg's initial offering is only £130m worth.

Football clubs set to flood on to the market as rules relax

Andrew Yates

The UK quoted football sector is set to explode into life over the next few months. Moves by the English Premier and Football leagues to relax restrictions on the ownership of football clubs will lead to a flood of flotations. A plethora of European clubs are also eyeing up the UK stock market.

Leicester City, the Premier League club which wooed the Coca-Cola Cup last season, yesterday set the ball rolling by confirming it planned to float by reversing into Soccer Investments, the quoted cash shell created by venture capitalist group Apex Partners. The combined group will be valued at £35m.

Apex plans to bring at least one more big-name football club to the market before the start of the football season next

month. Domestic targets are understood to include two Premiership teams, West Ham and Derby, and the First Division promotion hopefuls, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Manchester City. Apex has also had talks with several leading European clubs thought to include Atletico Madrid, the Spanish club which recently signed Brazilian midfielder Juninho for £12m, Dutch club PSV Eindhoven, currently owned by electronics giant Philips, and leading Portuguese club Benfica.

"We are considering European Soccer Investments. We certainly have a lot of interest from clubs and investors," a spokesman for Apex said yesterday.

This could be just the tip of the iceberg. Several other European clubs have advanced

plans to float in the UK, according to industry sources. Italian footballing giant AC Milan recently appointed NM Rothschild to advise on its flotation. Other clubs considering floating in London include Inter Milan and Bologna, the Italian rivals, Betis, one of the largest clubs in southern Spain, and Oporto and Sporting Lisbon of Portugal.

"There is likely to be a flood of European football clubs coming to the UK in the near future. The AIM market is attractive to these clubs as it does not require them to have a three-year profit record," said Tony Frasier, head of a specialist football fund run by investment bank Singer & Friedlander.

Under Premier League rules, investors who own a large stake in one team are not permitted to own more than a 10 per cent

holding in another club. However, these rules look set to be relaxed, paving the way for a host of domestic flotations.

"A working party is looking into this and may well decide to raise the level higher than 10 per cent," said a Premier League spokesman. The Football League, which looks after the UK's lower footballing divisions, looks set to follow suit.

Investment funds have already been told informally that they can breach the 10 per cent limit so long as they clear it with football authorities first, according to industry sources.

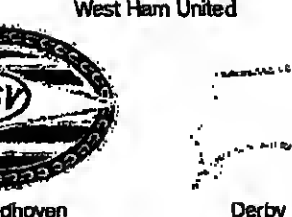
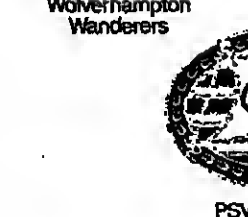
Leicester City has one of the most successful seasons in its history last year under the inspirational leadership of Irish manager Martin O'Neill, finishing in the top half of the Premier League and lifting the Coca-Cola cup. It will use the

£10m already raised by Soccer Investments to buy over players and expand its stadium, increasing the capacity of Filbert Street from 22,500 to 31,000 spectators.

Soccer Investments floated on AIM last April, vowing to sign up a Premier League team by the start of the season. Its four directors, including Alan Hansen, the Liverpool football player turned TV pundit, stand to make a large profit from the Leicester deal. They were each awarded 10,000 share options on becoming directors. These could be worth upwards of £20,000 each, as analysts believe, Leicester is valued at around £50m when it starts trading on AIM.

Soccer Investments' shares were suspended at 110.25p yesterday pending its acquisition of Leicester City.

Football clubs considering stock market flotation



Mansfield appointed Capital chief executive

Paul McGarr
Media Correspondent

Capital Radio has moved quickly to plug the senior management gap left by Richard Eyre, chief executive, who has left the company to join ITV. Following a rapidly convened board meeting Capital yesterday announced that Mr Eyre, who will be chief executive at ITV, will be succeeded by David Mansfield, currently group managing director with responsibility for operations.

Mr Mansfield has been with Capital for four years, first as group commercial director with responsibility for advertising sales before he was appointed group managing director this year. He was hired two years after Mr Eyre as part of the radio group's strategy of enhancing its management skills by bringing in executives from outside the radio industry. Before joining Capital, Mr Mansfield was director of sales and marketing at Thames Television.

Martin King, station manager of Capital in London, is being tipped by industry insiders to replace Mr Mansfield as

group managing director. Ms King was brought to Capital by Mr Mansfield from the Guardian's advertising sales team in 1993. Mr Mansfield worked closely with Mr Eyre and is expected to continue the group's strategy of using the Capital brand to expand into the leisure sector while gearing up the radio side of the business for the advent of digital audio broadcasting (DAB).

Ian Irvine, chairman of Capital Radio, said Mr Mansfield's



David Mansfield: Has been with Capital for four years

appointment would allow a consistency of approach. "David has worked alongside Richard leading a strong executive team. He has been closely involved in the development of strategy and the operations of the business for four years."

At ITV Mr Eyre will report to the ITV Council, which is made up of the chief executives of the ITV broadcasters. Although the council includes industry heavyweights such as Steve Morris from Granada, Roger Loughton from United News & Media and Clive Jones from Carlton, the ITV Council's chairman, Leslie Hill, emphasised that Mr Eyre's role was "the big job" and he would have a large degree of autonomy and responsibility.

Mr Eyre, who joins ITV in October, faces the task of managing the functions of the ITV Association, which under director Barry Cox oversees the network's digital plans and lobbying, with the Network Centre's scheduling, programming and marketing functions. An early job will be to find a scheduling head to replace Marcus Plantin, the outgoing network director.

AEA float cost public £141m

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

Taxpayers emerged with a £141m bill in the aftermath of last autumn's privatisation of AEA Technology, the final state sell-off staged by the previous government, it was revealed yesterday.

The Department of Trade and Industry wrote off loans of £141m to UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA), the state-owned research and decommissioning organisation from which AEA Technology was spun off. According to UKAEA's annual report, published yesterday, the DTI "extrapolated" £55m of temporary borrowings from the National Loans Fund and a further £86m of long-term capital loans.

Derek Pooley, chief executive of UKAEA, said the money was used to restructure the combined body prior to AEA Technology's privatisation. The move involved hiring off potentially profitable commercial science and engineering activities, leaving nuclear decommissioning and waste treatment liabilities under public control and cutting hundreds of jobs.

The disclosure is likely to add to concern that the sale, which raised £224m, was hugely underpriced. The shares have since risen from the 280p float price to 422p, valuing the company today at £340m.

Mr Pooley insisted the money had been well spent by the government. "Clearly a lot of it went on shedding people and making redundancy payments. A lot of nuclear research for the government had to come to an end. That was a very good exercise overall and AEA Technology was a successful privatisation."

The report also showed Mr Pooley was given a 25 per cent pay increase last year, taking his total earnings to £115,340. AEA also announced yesterday it was making its fourth, and largest, acquisition since it was privatised, by paying £378m (£34m) for Hyprotech, a Canadian company in the process of simulation software business.

Compaq adds to price war fears after Apple chief goes

David Osborne
New York

Still digesting the sudden ousting late on Wednesday of Apple's chief executive, Gil Amelio, the US computer sector was yesterday pondering additional turmoil with signs gathering of a new and possibly bloody price-cutting war.

Most importantly, Compaq Computer, the largest manufacturer of PCs in America, announced price cuts of up to 22 per cent in many of its personal computers for corporate customers. The move came one day after Hewlett-Packard slashed prices by up to 24 per cent.

Compaq, which is struggling to stave off strong new competition from Dell, also said yesterday that its second-quarter earnings had slipped by 20 per

cent. The poor figures were largely attributed to a one-off charge related to the company's recent acquisition of Microcom.

Even though the Compaq figures were roughly in line with Wall Street expectations, worries about the company led to a sell-off of its stocks. Shares in Compaq were off by \$2.50 to \$18.50 in early trading in New York.

Shares of Apple computer were also under pressure, dropping to a dismal \$13, as investors pondered whether the dismissal of Mr Amelio by the board implied that the troubled PC player had been doomed to the longer run. Its latest figures will be published next week and are expected to be grim.

Apple's co-founder, Steve Wozniak, was among a chorus of voices yesterday urging the

company to replace Mr Amelio, who took the helm in February 1996, with a figure more focused on customer relations. "I just hope we get somebody that's really good at judging customers and where they are now and in the future," Mr Wozniak remarked.

Mr Amelio is the third Apple chief executive to be forced out in just four years. Similar fates were visited upon John Sculley in 1993 and Michael Spindler in 1996. The company has seen its market share shrink rapidly while losses in the last 18 months have grown to \$1.5bn (£888m).

Compaq, meanwhile, is increasingly threatened by Dell and also Gateway 2000 because both these rivals rely on direct sales to customers, thus cutting out distributors and retailers.

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Hyder waters down tax burden

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Some things in life are just not fair, as Graham Hawker, chief executive of Hyder, found to his cost in last week's Budget. His watered-down reaction for public consumption, that the tax was "particularly harsh", was echoed by most City analysts. The £282m bill, made up of £192m for Welsh Water and £90m for Swalec, amounted to 24 per cent of Hyder's market value. Compare this with Anglo, which will pay a levy worth 11 per cent, or British Telecom, which "escaped" with a tax of only 1.7 per cent.

Hyder's decision to launch a "fundamental review" of its finances unsettled the share price just when shareholders in every other privatised utility saw the value of their investments surge. Yesterday Hyder's shares ended 21.5p higher at 827.5p as investors breathed a well-earned sigh of relief at the company's announcement that it was "confident" it could continue to deliver "satisfactory" dividend growth. Despite the scale of the burden, Hyder plans to change precisely nothing.

The group has no plans to cut spending. The tax, payable through increased borrowings in two tranches by December 1998, will raise Hyder's annual interest bill by £20m. One possibility was to reduce the discretionary investment programme on environmental improvements, worth £20m plus annually. But this is too difficult, politically and practically, to contemplate. The same could be said for the second option, to cancel the £1m of annual cuts in bills to customers agreed with Ofwat under its voluntary "abatement" programme.

The reason for Mr Hawker's confidence says much about the continued strong prospects for profits and dividend growth across the water sector. Though Hyder's gearing will rise from 100 to 200 per cent, it should still manage a dividend increase for the current financial year of 11 per cent in money terms, compared with the 14 per cent forecast by analysts before the windfall tax. With a prospective yield of 7.5 per cent, it suggests plenty of prospects for capital growth. As the table shows, some of the healthiest companies will manage dividend increases of up to 14 per cent. The real crunch will come, not with the windfall tax, but in 2000 when the regulator is expected to make substantial price cuts to bring down dividend growth.

The current price formula, which allows real term increases in bills to fund investment spending, leaves plenty of room for water companies to

raise gearing to pay the windfall levy. And given generally high dividend cover in the sector, investors will continue to enjoy a steady dividend growth. Hyder certainly looks undervalued, at least until 2000. Investors should buy.

Helical Bar still a property star

Some of the property industry's supposed star performers such as Burford and Argent, have fallen to earth in recent months. However Helical Bar, one of the unsung heroes of the sector, keeps on producing the goods.

Under the guidance of charismatic chief executive Michael Slade, Helical has built up a £550m development programme that is the envy of the industry. This seems a big step for a company capitalised at less than £100m. But Helical has mitigated the risks by taking on a large number of smaller

schemes and pre-selling most of the sites to institutions keen to invest in direct property. And it has shown over the past 10 years that it can consistently spot a good deal.

Its investment portfolio is also well placed to cash in on the property upturn. It has been quick to take advantage of the strong London market by selling industrial property and piling into City offices. This fleetness of foot should stand it in good stead.

On the downside, the 1 per cent increase in stamp duty for larger property transactions announced in last week's Budget and rising interest rates are bad news for the industry. But this won't be enough to strangle the market recovery. The removal of tax credits on dividends will also make property a relatively more attractive investment for pension funds and life assurance companies than equities.

Given that Helical has a large chunk of convertible preference shares its net assets should be valued on a fully diluted basis. Net assets for the year to March rose to 372p (330p). Credit

Lyonnais Laing forecasts net asset value of 445p this year, putting the shares on a prospective premium to net assets of 15 per cent. But that ignores the value of the development portfolio not reflected in the balance sheet.

Even on conservative estimates the profits from this investment will add at least 100p to net assets per share. Helical's shares, up 16p to 513.5p yesterday, still offer sound value.

Stoves disappoints with warning

When Stoves, the designer cooker makers, floated at 163p two years ago the excitement which rapidly took the company to a 330p high is easy to understand. Stoves' niche position selling customised cookers in a staggering 50 million variations of colour, finish and style and its quality after-sales back-up looks like a winner.

Stoves can ask premium prices while made-to-order, flexible production means low stock levels and tight costs. However, the timing was a bit off. The slow consumer recovery, combined with a hot summer last year, took their toll and the shares slumped.

However, with windfall cash around and housing moves on the rise, Stoves should be doing better. So yesterday's trading warning was a disappointment. But there is no fundamental concern. While election nerves left the UK cooker market down 10 per cent in the three months to end May, Stoves' sales fell just 3 per cent. Strong growth in the first three months means the group should still turn in a healthy 27 per cent rise in full-year sales to £80m with profits up a fifth when the figures are published on 19 August.

Meanwhile, a newly appointed MD for the UK business frees up John Crathorne, chief executive, to focus on strategy which includes a cautious step into the US, where upmarket European brands are in demand, expansion in Germany, a merger in France and a move into other hi-tech kitchen appliances.

Mike Costello at house brokers Kleinwort Benson has cut full-year forecasts to May by £400,000 to £5.5m, but has raised 1998 and 1999 numbers by £200,000 to £7.2m and £8.2m. The shares, down 7.5p to 270p yesterday, are trading on 20 times this year's earnings and 14 times for 1998. That looks right.

City suits rally round to support fox hunting

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Evelyn de Rothschild: in favour of hunt meetings

I wonder how many City people there were among the 100,000-odd crowd which turned out for yesterday's Countryside Rally in Hyde Park in support of hunting?

Quite a few, judging from the number of people with "I was in Hyde Park" stickers on their lapels at Bank Tube Station at around 3 o'clock.

However, press reports that Evelyn de Rothschild had sent staff at NM Rothschild a memo urging them to attend were greeted with resignation by the investment bank's press spokesman: "We can't confirm the numbers that went - we were all too busy working."

According to other sources, it is understood that Sir Evelyn was merely bringing the matter to the attention of staff, and it was up to them whether they attended the meeting.

There was a similar reaction from Savills, the estate agency chain that specialises in country houses. It has 10 offices in London, and its head office is in easy walking distance of Hyde Park.

A spokeswoman for Savills said that while "many hundreds" of staff had gone, there had been no directive commanding them to go. "It's a very difficult one, really. The company is made up of individuals, and we decided we didn't want a company presence. But we are very much involved with the land."

The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce - or the RSA to you - has appointed its first woman director, Penny Egan. It already has a woman chairman, the television cook Pru Leith.

If you didn't already know, the RSA is popular among business people, since it is heavily involved in promoting

better management in UK companies, and is seen as an excellent vehicle for meeting other like-minded people, ie networking. It has a fellowship of 21,000.

Ms Egan is in the forefront of the RSA's 243-year history, having been in the RSA's Programme Development Director when it published the "Tomorrow's Company" report. This was the management study which brought the idea of stakeholding into the public gaze.

Ms Egan, the first woman director in the RSA's 243-year history, has the experience to give it an even higher profile, having worked as a press spokesperson in 10 Downing Street for Harold Wilson and Jim Callaghan.

Congratulations to my old mate Roger Oldfield, a receiver with accountants KPMG, who won the trophy for "fastest chief operating officer" in an annual 3.5-mile race on Wednesday.

Overall he actually came third, in 22 minutes 40 seconds, in the 1997 Chase Corporate Challenge, behind Matt Barnes of Barclays

Bank and Zara Hyde of Esso UK. But Roger, 49, is in effect head of KPMG's UK corporate recovery practice, thus a "CEO", and considering his age an example to us all.

"I was really pleased," he said yesterday. "I came third last year. I don't go running every day - I just seem to have a natural ability for it."

Mr Oldfield is headhunting closer to selling companies out of business than the management office complex in the City when Mountheigh went belly up. In 1990 he almost persuaded me to buy a flat in Bow Quarter, a development in east London. Yesterday he was relaxing at the Loch Lomond International Golf Classic as a guest of a company which bought some land off him in 1987.

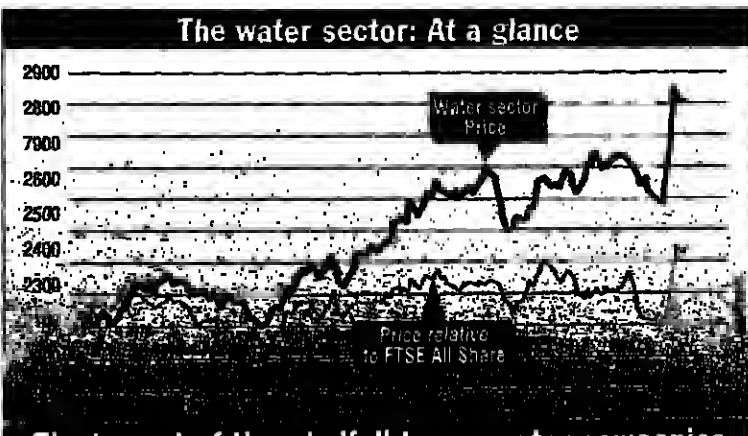
The client in question bought the Stockton heavy engineering works on which Margaret Thatcher walked for that famous photograph of industrial desolation in the 1980s. It now houses a thriving business park.

But Mr Oldfield may be finally slowing up. His fellow partner Tony Thompson tells me he's just taken up golf.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) isn't the only institution suffering a "Peasants' Revolt". The election for a new independent financial adviser (IFA) representative on the PIA board has brought forth Roddy Kohn, an independent independent, so to speak, who won by a whisker. He beat the man appointed by the PIA board, Michael Bryant, who has just retired after 25 years with Rathbone Group.

Perhaps Mr Bryant should have paid more attention to a motto: "A PIA recommendation is the kiss of death."

John Wilcock



The impact of the windfall tax on water companies

Company	Windfall levy (£m)	Forecast net profit 1997/1998 (£m)	Forecast dividend growth (%)
Anglia	132	232	13
Hyder	282	158	10.7
Medina	79	4/4	n/a
Sewer Trust	315	319	12.3
South West	184	117	11.7

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.877	17.5	54.9	1000	32.31	32.31	32.31
Canada	2.383	71.66	209.30	133/37	38.38	38.38	38.38
France	6.564	340.820	980.880	57/53	16.78	16.78	16.78
Italy	20857	12.74	16.07	17/4	17.79	17.79	17.79
Spain	160.88	97.40	307.302	17/30	16.78	16.78	16.78
ECU	150.33	35.31	106.12	12/27	14.5	14.5	14.5
Belgium	61.08	21.15	58.31	35/35	75.74	75.74	75.74
Netherlands	12.34	34.80	104.810	17/12	38.38	38.38	38.38
Denmark	3.324	106.98	318.304	10/18	43.42	43.42	43.42
Ireland	1.356	6.2	22.5	12/25	37.35	37.35	37.35
Sweden	7.372	380.280	994.890	33/32	16.78	16.78	16.78
Switzerland	2.447	16.18	54.23	14/22	23.21	23.21	23.21
Australia	2.207	9.3	30.20	13/54	31.1	31.1	31.1
Hong Kong	13.057	16.2	53.46	12/15	40.50	40.50	40.50
Japan	120.0	34.31	102.143	14/22	40.50	40.50	40.50
New Zealand	2.505	2.5	2.14	14/22	23.21	23.21	23.21
Saudi Arabia	8.3297	37.33	117.35	6.8	5.9	5.9	5.9
Singapore	2.443	43.44	143.00	15.6	59.53	59.53	59.53

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	19380	0.0959	Nigeria	16369	0.0000
Australia	207.040	12.237	Tanzania	16369	0.0000
Brazil	15221	107.95	Pakistan	45.2362	40.495
Canada	13.057	12.237	Philippines	44.703	28.022
China	8.3297	37.33	Thailand	25.649	16.820
France	6.564	340.820	South Africa	37.702	17.79
Germany	1.877	17.5	Taiwan	47.051	27.700
Greece	160.88	97.40	UAE	6.8	5.9
India	30.20	13.54			
Korea	0.010	0.0027			

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount; below spot rate. Rates quoted low to high are at a premium. "Dollar rates quoted as responses. For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3003. Cells cost 50p per minute.

Interest Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	6.75%	Germany	2.50%	US	8.50%
France	5.50%	Canada	4.50%	Japan	5.50%
Italy	10.00%	Spain	4.75%	Belgium	2.50%
Switzerland	6.25%	Netherlands	2.50%	Australia	10.00%
Denmark	2.50%	Sweden	4.75%	New Zealand	10.00%
South Africa	10.00%	South Korea	10.00%	Hong Kong	10.00%
Singapore	10.00%	Taiwan	10.00%	Malaysia	10.00%

Bond Yields

Country	1yr	2yr	3yr	5yr	10yr	15yr	20yr
UK	7.0%	7.1%	7.2%	7.3%	7.4%	7.5%	7.6%
France	6.8%	6.9%	7.0%	7.1%	7.2%	7.3%	7.4%
Germany	5.5%	5.6%	5.7%	5.8%	5.9%	6.0%	6.1%
Italy	10.0%	10.1%	10.2%	10.3%	10.4%	10.5%	10.6%
Spain	4.7%	4.8%	4.9%	5.0%	5.1%	5.2%	5.3%
Netherlands	2.5%	2.6%	2.7%	2.8%	2.9%	3.0%	3.1%
Sweden	4.7%	4.8%	4.9%	5.0%	5.1%	5.2%	5.3%
Switzerland	6.2%	6.3%	6.4%	6.5%	6.6%	6.7%	6.8%
Australia	10.0%	10.1%	10.2%	10.3%	10.4%	10.5%	10.6%
New Zealand	10.0%	10.1%	10.2%	10.3%	10.4%	10.5%	10.6%
Hong Kong	10.0%	10.1%	10.2%	10.3%	10.4%	10.5%	10.6%
Japan	5.5%	5.6%	5.7%	5.8%	5.9%	6.0%	6.1%
South Korea	10.0%	10.1%	10.2%	10.3%	10.4%	10.5%	10.6%
Taiwan	10.0%	10.1%	10.2%	10.3%	10.4%	10.5%	10.6%
Malaysia	10.0%	10.1%	10.2%	10.3%	10.4%	10.5%	10.6%

Money Market Rates

Instrument	Rate	Instrument	Rate	Instrument	Rate
Bankers' CDs	6.0%	Local Authority Debts	6.0%	Discount Rate	6.0%
Overnight	6.0%	3 Month	6.0%	6 Month	6.0%
1 Month	6.0%	3 Month	6.0%	6 Month	6.0%
1 Year	6.0%	3 Month	6.0%	6 Month	6.0%
1 Year	6.0%	3 Month	6.0%	6 Month	6.0%

Tourist Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia	2.200	France	6.564	New Zealand	2.505
Canada	13.057	Germany	1.877	Hong Kong	13.057
China	8.3297	Italy	160.88	Japan	120.0
France	6.564	Netherlands	12.34	South Korea	13.057
Germany	1.877	Spain	160.88	Taiwan	47.051
Italy	160.88	Sweden	7.372	UAE	6.8
Netherlands	12.34	Switzerland	2.447		
Spain	160.88	Australia	2.200		
Sweden	7.372	Canada	13.057		
Switzerland	2.447	France	6.564		
Australia	2.200	Germany	1.877		
Canada	13.057	Italy	160.88		
China	8.3297	Netherlands	12.34		
France	6.564	Spain	160.88		
Germany	1.877	Sweden	7.372		
Italy	160.88	Switzerland	2.447		
Netherlands	12.34	Australia	2.200		
Spain	160.88	Canada	13.057		
Sweden	7.372	France	6.564		
Switzerland	2.447	Germany	1.877		
Australia	2.200	Italy	160.88		
Canada	13.057	Netherlands	12.34		
China	8.3297	Spain	160.88		
France	6.564	Sweden	7.372		
Germany	1.877	Switzerland	2.447		
Italy	160.88	Australia	2.200		
Netherlands	12.34	Canada	13.057		
Spain	160.88	France	6.564		
Sweden	7.372	Germany	1.877		
Switzerland	2.447	Italy	160.88		
Australia	2.200	Netherlands	12.34		
Canada	13.057	Spain	160.88		
China	8.3297	Sweden	7.372		
France	6.564	Switzerland	2.447		
Germany	1.877	Australia	2.200		
Italy	160.88	Canada	13.057		
Netherlands	12.34	France	6.564		
Spain	160.88	Germany	1.877		
Sweden	7.372	Italy	160.88		
Switzerland	2.447	Netherlands	12.34		
Australia	2.200	Spain	160.88		
Canada	13.057	Sweden	7.372		
China	8.3297	Switzerland	2.447		
France	6.564	Australia	2.200		
Germany	1.877	Canada	13.057		
Italy	160.88	France	6.564		
Netherlands	12.34	Germany	1.877		
Spain	160.88	Italy	160.88		
Sweden	7.372	Netherlands	12.34		
Switzerland	2.447	Spain	160.88		
Australia	2.200	Sweden	7.372		
Canada	13.057	Switzerland	2.447		
China	8.3297	Australia	2.200		
France	6.564	Canada	13.057		
Germany	1.877	China	8.3297		
Italy	160.88	France	6.564		
Netherlands	12.34	Germany	1.877		
Spain	160.88	Italy	160.88		
Sweden	7.372	Netherlands	12.34		
Switzerland	2.447	Spain	160.88		
Australia	2.200	Sweden	7.372		
Canada	13.057	Switzerland	2.447		
China	8.3297	Australia	2.200		

Villeneuve faces up to Ferrari challenge

Eyes closed and thinking of England

Rugby Union
CHRIS HEWITT
reports from Sydney

The jet-lag kicked in with a vengeance yesterday as England sleep-walked their way through their penultimate training session before tomorrow's one-off Test - some would call it an ambush - in Sydney. "I managed nine hours sleep on Wednesday night so I've cracked it," said Phil de Glanville, the captain. "But it's different for the Lions who flew in from South Africa. They really are suffering."

Heigh-ho, there you go. Just as the Lions re-establish some sort of credibility for northern hemisphere rugby by beating the world champions on their own grasslands, England arrive underbaked and under-prepared for an oddball match with the Wallabies that looks as ill-fated as it is ill-conceived. Never less than honest, De Glanville made a sharp point or three as he weighed up his chances of becoming the first red rose skipper to venture Down Under and win.

"It's not an unfair match, exactly; international rugby is where the money stands to be made and we all appreciate that," he said. "But I've said to the Rugby Football Union that

we'd like to be given at least a reasonable chance to be at our best in big matches like this, to have the odds stacked in our favour as far as possible. Quite obviously, that is not the case on this occasion."

He could have said that over and over again. Not only were the vast majority of the side visibly suffering from the effects of long-haul travel yesterday, they were also required to drive for the best part of an hour in search of a training pitch that did not resemble a community refuse facility. And to add insult to injury, they were once again forced to prepare in the absence of Dave Alred, the most successful kicking coach in world rugby.

England's reluctance to draw Alred into the fold now borders on the embarrassing, especially in the light of his achievements with the Lions. The series against the Springboks was won primarily through the right boot of Neil Jenkins, who accounted for 41 of the 59 points scored by the tourists over the three Tests; indeed, the Welshman finished the 13-match tour with a strike rate of 76 per cent and did not miss a single intended kick to touch.

More to the point at issue, Tim Stimpson, the England full-back, matched Jenkins virtual-



England Lions Graham Rowntree (centre) and Tim Rodber (right) in training yesterday

Photograph: Allsport

ly kick for kick, emerging with a success ratio of 73 per cent. This from a player who had not taken aim at the posts in anger since leaving West Hartlepool for Newcastle in the summer of last year. No wonder the South Africans, who fluffed every last kick at goal in the decisive Durban Test, are offering Alred a Springbok contract.

"He should be involved with us," admitted Jack Rowell, the England coach, who is now finding it increasingly difficult

to disguise his exasperation at the RFU's apparent suspicion of Alred's methods. "I think we've now reached the stage where the situation needs to be sorted. I've put a high value on Dave's services since we worked together at Bath some years ago and I haven't changed my view on the subject. We talk about this pretty regularly and I'm expectant that the reluctance is about to disappear for the good of English rugby. He's a must, as far as I'm concerned."

In which case, the RFU should get a move on. Their counterpart in South Africa are clearly serious about buying Alred in and now that he has completed a one-year contract with Newcastle, the world is his oyster. Ironically enough, the Australians have made more use of his expertise than any other international set-up and if Matt Burke outkicks Stimpson tomorrow, certain members of the England hierarchy will spend most of the

evening scrubbing egg yolks from their faces.

Tony Underwood, the Newcastle wing carried off during the first half of last weekend's Lions' Test in Johannesburg, is still feeling the effects of his hip injury yesterday and did not train. "He's more than a slight doubt, but we'll see how he improves over the next few hours," said De Glanville. Nick Beal, the versatile Northampton back, would be the most likely replacement.

Seconds out for the ballroom knife fight

The silver service at London's Hilton Hotel may find itself being used in the ballroom rather than the dining room this evening as delegates gather for what could prove to be Rugby Football Union's night of the long knives.

Last year's annual meeting was a stormy enough affair when this year's could reach hurricane force after 12 months of the sport's equivalent of global warming. There is a growing feeling among the membership that Twickenham has over-reached itself and that the power base needs shifting a touch nearer the game's roots.

It is unlikely that there will be any casualties at tonight's meeting, but the repercussions, ramifications and aftershocks could account for a few bodies and reputations over the next few months.

It is unlikely that one of those will be millionaire Cliff Brittle, the 55-year-old former equipment hire company chairman. He has been chairman of the now defunct executive committee, during which time he has been a loose voice against such things as the RFU's negotiations with BSkyB for rights to broadcast all England home matches, including their Five Nations

games, as well as the demands by the senior clubs for a degree of autonomy to run their own game. He is standing for election to the newly created management board, which will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the game in England.

Brittle, who has the backing of the recently formed RFU Reform Group, whose membership includes the former England captain and RFU committee member, Bill Beaumont, is opposed by the establishment, nominally, Bob Rogers, a 53-year-old solicitor from Wor-

David Llewellyn sets the scene for today's battle over who runs rugby

thing. It is a racing certainty that Brittle will win the day.

But if the election itself is a hot enough issue, it is nothing to what could be generated by item 10 of an 11-item agenda. Starkly, and crucially from a British standpoint, it states: "To consider business of which due notice has been given."

In total there are 10 topics, the chief of which are a handful aimed at curbing the pow-

ers of the acting chief executive, currently the RFU secretary Tony Hallett, who has been appointed pro tem, the position to be reviewed in October.

South Liverpool RUFC is proposing to second full authority to the chairman of the management board (which should be Brittle) to represent the union in all matters and that he shall oversee the chief executive (Hallett, temporarily at least).

But yet another motion, proposed by Manchester FC calls for the post of chief executive to be advertised and the appointment made by a selection panel containing independent people in addition to RFU management board officers.

Perhaps anticipating failure with the above, the Manchester club has a second proposal to follow its first, that the chief executive shall report to and work under the authority of the chairman of the management board.

Unfortunately for the Reformists and for Brittle none of

the above are legally binding. The RFU has had them checked out and will not be obliged to carry out the wishes of the 2,200 member clubs and constituent bodies even if the proposals were to receive unanimous approbation.

However, it would be a foolish thing to ignore them completely, particularly demands to justify legal expenditure of £50,000 in the year 1995-96, and a similar one calling for justification of PR guru Sir Tim Bell's 12-month contract at £20,000 per month.

And it would be positively suicidal were they to dismiss a further proposal calling for "... a full independent inquiry into the manner in which the Union conducts its business, with particular reference to the way in which commercial contracts are awarded and in which senior staff appointments are made..."

How professionalism sparked two-year civil war

It began in August 1995 when the International Rugby Football Board, the worldwide game's governing body, decreed that the sport should go open, or in other words, professional.

The game was divided in England over the issue. The division of views led, for one reason or another, to three special general meetings in 14 months.

At the first SGM, ostensibly to debate the issue of professionalism, Cliff Brittle - champion of the anti-professionalism lobby (the grassroots of the

2,000-plus membership) was elected as chairman of the executive committee. At the second SGM the principle of professionalism was accepted by the grassroots.

The third SGM in March saw the membership retain the right to elect future chairmen of the management board - which will replace the executive committee - contrary to moves by Twickenham.

Throughout all this a rancorous split developed, which only ended at the beginning of the year, between the RFU

and the top 24 clubs, who wanted to run their game independently while still remaining part of the union. Brittle and his supporters battled long and hard to prevent this.

Elsewhere, a deal was struck between the RFU and BSkyB for exclusive coverage of all England's home Tests for five years from 1998. This caused temporary expulsion of England from the Five Nations' Championship.

The RFU Reform Group was formed containing notables such as the former England cap-

tain Bill Beaumont, and they have been questioning the integrity of certain RFU officers and committee members. The Reformists are backing Brittle against the RFU's Bob Rogers in today's election to the chair of the management board.

Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary who has been a particular focus of attack by the Brittle camp, becomes chief executive from today, but only in an acting capacity. His performance will be reviewed in October at which point the job may be advertised.

against Chile in Santiago in 1966.

Allchurch scored 23 goals for Wales in 68 appearances, both records in their time. Joey Jones (72 caps) beat his appearance record in 1986.

An inside-forward with superb ball control he was one of the key members of the Welsh team who reached the 1958 World Cup finals in Sweden. He was awarded the MBE in 1966.

Goosen strikes gold on Carat

Equestrianism
GENEVIEVE MURPHY
reports from Hickstead

Guy Goosen was an appropriate winner at The Royal International Horse Show yesterday when he rode Carat, one of the horses he purchased from Paul Schockemöhle, to victory.

Schockemöhle became the saviour of this show when it was threatened with cancellation this year, so the success of one of his former horses was welcome. The 23-year-old Goosen has a further connection with the German entrepreneur and former European show jumping champion: his sister, Mandy, has been riding Schockemöhle's young horses for the past two and a half years.

Goosen was last but not one to jump in the Royal International Chase and he succeeded, by just 0.11sec, in defeating the time set by Germany's Heinrich Engemann on Edgar.

Schockemöhle's new connection with Hickstead has brought a tangible sense of optimism for this - and future - shows. "Paul is such a professional person, everything he touches turns to gold," Goosen said.

Douglas Bunn, the owner of

Hickstead, will be hoping that these words are prophetic. He and his new German partner expect to run two shows here next year, the Royal International and the British Jumping Derby.

"We will probably have the Nations Cup back," Schockemöhle said of the team contest, which was held at the Royal Windsor Horse Show this year. "We will have to try to find a friendly way to have this class at the Royal International."

Negotiations may, however, be less than friendly since the Windsor committee expect to retain the Nations Cup.

The Hickstead organisers have experienced the havoc caused by the loss of a major sponsor (in particular Silk Cut who pulled out last December), so they will be aiming to attract a number of supporting firms for each meeting. Bunn is also hoping that the Sports Council will at last support his splendid showground which, according to Schockemöhle, "has a charisma you find nowhere else."

Whereas Goosen won by a split-second, Peter Charles (Ireland's reigning European champion) had a commanding advantage of 6.92sec when he won the later Royal International July Stakes on the French-bred T'Alme.

Sussex start their clear-out of players

Cricket

Newport, 34, made his debut in 1982 and has taken more than 1,000 wickets.

Dave Gilbert, the Surrey manager, is calling for the 2nd XI Championship to be scrapped in its current format. Gilbert wants the number of games reduced and matches to be extended from three to four days.

The Australian, who will lead Surrey into Saturday's Benson and Hedges Cup final against Kent, believes the current system is of little benefit.

Gilbert said: "To play 17 three-day 2nd XI Championship matches each season is a joke and as the competition stands at present it should be scrapped."

"Three-day cricket no longer exists at first-class level and it is silly to have it continue at second-team level. It often leads to uncricketed finishes and that doesn't teach anyone anything."

Worcestershire have awarded the former England seamer Phil Newport a benefit in 1998.

Ivor Allchurch dies at 67

Football

Ivor Allchurch has died at his Swansea home, aged 67. The former Newcastle United, Cardiff City and Swansea Town striker made 694 league appearances, scoring 251 goals.

Nicknamed "The Golden Boy", his international career began against England at Roker Park in 1951 and ended

against Chile in Santiago in 1966.

Allchurch scored 23 goals for Wales in 68 appearances, both records in their time. Joey Jones (72 caps) beat his appearance record in 1986.

An inside-forward with superb ball control he was one of the key members of the Welsh team who reached the 1958 World Cup finals in Sweden. He was awarded the MBE in 1966.

SPORTING DIGEST

Athletics

The former double world sprint champion Kathy McCabe's winning time of 1:00.00 in the 400m at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh yesterday was a record for a British woman.

M McCabe, 34, won the 400m in 1:00.00, ahead of 1:01.00 by 1:01.00, 1:02.00 by 1:02.00, 1:03.00 by 1:03.00, 1:04.00 by 1:04.00, 1:05.00 by 1:05.00, 1:06.00 by 1:06.00, 1:07.00 by 1:07.00, 1:08.00 by 1:08.00, 1:09.00 by 1:09.00, 1:10.00 by 1:10.00, 1:11.00 by 1:11.00, 1:12.00 by 1:12.00, 1:13.00 by 1:13.00, 1:14.00 by 1:14.00, 1:15.00 by 1:15.00, 1:16.00 by 1:16.00, 1:17.00 by 1:17.00, 1:18.00 by 1:18.00, 1:19.00 by 1:19.00, 1:20.00 by 1:20.00, 1:21.00 by 1:21.00, 1:22.00 by 1:22.00, 1:23.00 by 1:23.00, 1:24.00 by 1:24.00, 1:25.00 by 1:25.00, 1:26.00 by 1:26.00, 1:27.00 by 1:27.00, 1:28.00 by 1:28.00, 1:29.00 by 1:29.00, 1:30.00 by 1:30.00, 1:31.00 by 1:31.00, 1:32.00 by 1:32.00, 1:33.00 by 1:33.00, 1:34.00 by 1:34.00, 1:35.00 by 1:35.00, 1:36.00 by 1:36.00, 1:37.00 by 1:37.00, 1:38.00 by 1:38.00, 1:39.00 by 1:39.00, 1:40.00 by 1:40.00, 1:41.00 by 1:41.00, 1:42.00 by 1:42.00, 1:43.00 by 1:43.00, 1:44.00 by 1:44.00, 1:45.00 by 1:45.00, 1:46.00 by 1:46.00, 1:47.00 by 1:47.00, 1:48.00 by 1:48.00, 1:49.00 by 1:49.00, 1:50.00 by 1:50.00, 1:51.00 by 1:51.00, 1:52.00 by 1:52.00, 1:53.00 by 1:53.00, 1:54.00 by 1:54.00, 1:55.00 by 1:55.00, 1:56.00 by 1:56.00, 1:57.00 by 1:57.00, 1:58.00 by 1:58.00, 1:59.00 by 1:59.00, 2:00.00 by 2:00.00, 2:01.00 by 2:01.00, 2:02.00 by 2:02.00, 2:03.00 by 2:03.00, 2:04.00 by 2:04.00, 2:05.00 by 2:05.00, 2:06.00 by 2:06.00, 2:07.00 by 2:07.00, 2:08.00 by 2:08.00, 2:09.00 by 2:09.00, 2:10.00 by 2:10.00, 2:11.00 by 2:11.00, 2:12.00 by 2:12.00, 2:13.00 by 2:13.00, 2:14.00 by 2:14.00, 2:15.00 by 2:15.00, 2:16.00 by 2:16.00, 2:17.00 by 2:17.00, 2:18.00 by 2:18.00, 2:19.00 by 2:19.00, 2:20.00 by 2:20.00, 2:21.00 by 2:21.00, 2:22.00 by 2:22.00, 2:23.00 by 2:23.00, 2:24.00 by 2:24.00, 2:25.00 by 2:25.00, 2:26.00 by 2:26.00, 2:27.00 by 2:27.00, 2:28.00 by 2:28.00, 2:29.00 by 2:29.00, 2:30.00 by 2:30.00, 2:31.00 by 2:31.00, 2:32.00 by 2:32.00, 2:33.00 by 2:33.00, 2:34.00 by 2:34.00, 2:35.00 by 2:35.00, 2:36.00 by 2:36.00, 2:37.00 by 2:37.00, 2:38.00 by 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Payback for Thomas
British 400 metres hope talks to
Mike Rowbottom, page 28

sport

Valiant Vasseur
New yellow jersey for the
Tour de France, page 26

Wright fined £15,000 for misconduct

Football
ALAN NIXON

The Arsenal striker Ian Wright was yesterday fined £15,000 – one of the largest financial punishments ever handed out to a player by the Football Association – for misconduct on the field.

The FA decided on the fine, rather than another lengthy ban for the volatile England international, at a hearing at a Hertfordshire hotel yesterday afternoon.

Wright, 33, was accompanied by his manager, Arsène Wenger, at the FA Commission disciplinary meeting, where he was answering charges relating to Arsenal matches at home to Blackburn on 19 April and away to Coventry two days later.

The much-publicised incidents centred on remarks made by Wright to the referee on the first occasion and gestures to the crowd on the second. The FA's director of public affairs, David Davies, announced the fine in a prepared statement yesterday evening.

Liverpool concern over Murphy injury

ALAN NIXON

Danny Murphy's move from Crewe Alexandra to Liverpool was held up yesterday after medical examinations revealed an old knee ligament injury.

The midfielder had his Arsenal unveiling postponed after checks indicated some damage to both knees from an earlier stage of his career.

Talks between the clubs went on during the day with Crewe pointing out that Murphy has been a regular in their side for the past three or four years and has never encountered any problems.

The £1.5m down payment plus another £3m in instalments may have to be altered to take the discovery into consideration and there is also the question of whether Murphy's knees can be insured. However, the signs from both clubs are that the deal will still go ahead.

Paul Ince also made a visit to Liverpool to assure the club he wants to join them, despite reports to the contrary. The England midfielder will speak to Internazionale today to inform them he wants to leave.

He said: "The Commission made it absolutely clear to Ian Wright that he could expect no sympathy whatsoever if he appeared before them again in similar and proven circumstances. The severest of penalties that would remove him from the game for a very long time would be inevitable."

Meanwhile Wenger has turned down a £1m bid for centre-back Scott Marshall from the former Arsenal No 2 and caretaker manager, Stewart Houston, who is now in charge at Queen's Park Rangers.

Wenger has told QPR he wants £1.5m for the Scotland Under-21 defender who was one of seven players made available at Highbury this week.

Marshall's first-team chances will be limited this season because of Wenger's signings and he is going into the last year of his contract. Houston wants Marshall to follow him across London and may make a second attempt to persuade Wenger to sell.

Bolton yesterday strengthened their strike force for next season by signing the Icelandic international Arnar Gunnlaugsson for £100,000 from IA of Akranes.

The 23-year-old striker, who has also had spells with Dutch side Feyenoord and French club Sochaux, joins his compatriot Gudni Bergsson at the Premiership newcomers.

Peter Ndlovu's move to Birmingham has fallen through after the Coventry winger failed a medical. The clubs had agreed a £1.75m deal but the 24-year-old Zimbabwean international will now return to Highfield Road.

Blackburn have agreed to sell Paul Warhurst to Crystal Palace for £1.5m. The out-of-contract utility player is expected to have talks with Palace over the next few days.

Colin Hendry is struggling to get fit for the start of the season. Blackburn's Scottish international defender is involved in an extensive rehabilitation programme following a groin operation earlier this summer.

Jimmy Quinn is reviving his playing career at the age of 38 after failing to return to management following his departure from Reading. The former Northern Ireland striker has held talks with Peterborough and one of his old clubs, Bournemouth, about returning to action.

Andy Gray, the former Tottenham and Crystal Palace midfielder, is ending his two-year stay in Scotland by signing for Bury. The Falkirk midfielder, man of the match in the Scottish Cup final in May, will team up again with manager Stan Ternent, who was his coach at Palace.

The West Ham captain, Julian Dicks, could miss the start of the season and be out for up to four months owing to a knee injury. Dicks had an operation at the end of last season, but is still having problems and has not yet started training.

Ronaldo's controversial transfer from Barcelona to Internazionale will be discussed by the governing body of the world game, Fifa, on 22 July. Fifa's Player's Status Committee will also examine an equally contentious move by French international defender Bixente Lizarazu from Athletic Bilbao to Bayern Munich.

Substitute goalkeeper Maikel Aerts of Second Division side FC Den Bosch has become the first player in the history of Dutch football to fail a drugs test. The player's urine sample showed traces of cocaine following a random test on 17 May 17 after Den Bosch's game with Dordrecht '90. Aerts was not playing in the match.

BRITISH GRAND PRIX: Arrows chief says his leading driver must do better



Rivalry renewed: Damon Hill (right), the world champion, and Michael Schumacher meet at Silverstone yesterday

Photograph: Emiles

Walkinshaw's warning to Hill

DERICK ALLSOP
reports from Silverstone

Damon Hill has come home to a few home truths. He arrived for Sunday's British Grand Prix here to the full realisation of how far his world has turned since the heady days of his championship success.

Bad enough that he had to sit alongside Michael Schumacher, his nemesis and Jacques Villeneuve, his former team-mate at Williams-Resault, as they considered their prospects in this race and the tide of the world championship.

For half a season Hill has been basking in sympathy and his Arrows-Yamaha team ridiculed for failing to provide him with the equipment befitting a man of his status. Walkinshaw has patently had enough and feels it is high time Hill took his share of the blame for a campaign that has yet to yield a point.

Hill has indicated he will seek another team if he is not convinced Arrows can produce a competitive car next season.

Walkinshaw wishes it to be known he requires proof that Hill, who is being paid £4.5m for this year, is worth retaining.

Walkinshaw decided it was time to "be blunt" with Hill after seeing his No 1 driver career across the gravel on the first lap of the French Grand Prix 12 days ago. He spelled out his demands for the second half of the season in "a chat" with Hill and told him he could no longer accept excuses about diminishing motivation.

"By his own admission he's gone to sleep and he's acknowledged it's been difficult for him to drive himself," Walkinshaw said. "We will see how he performs in the second half of the year."

"I don't believe a professional should have any difficulty keeping up his motivation. We signed one of the best two or three drivers in the world to drive the team and provide the motivation – not the other way round."

"Damon has been struggling to get himself into gear, but that is what we are paying him for. Drivers are paid to do a job in the motor car and they have to do it."

"Any professional is as good as his last race. If you want to be in a better position you should be trying 110 per cent to show others they should want you. If the money doesn't motivate him then the fear of failure should."

"The non-performance has been pretty evenly split. 50-50, between team and driver. We've made a lot of silly mistakes and we've got to stop it. It's my responsibility to treat Damon and talk to him like any other member of the team."

"I tried the subtle approach, now it's time to be blunt. In France we had one driver off on the first lap, the other spinning. Do me a favour!"

"It's an application problem. Maybe we were all too comfortable with each other. I've got to get him back on the boil. For his sake and mine, it's better something should be said. It's for me to help him, not drop him in it. We both know he's capable of better and we'll support him 100 per cent."

Walkinshaw cites lap times to demonstrate that Hill is being matched by his No 2, the much maligned Brazilian, Pedro Diniz. There could scarcely be a more painful blow to the champion's pride.

Jordan's success in the bidding for Mugen-Honda engines next season has been interpreted as a serious setback for Arrows, but Walkinshaw maintains he is satisfied with his plans in that department and expects to make an announcement at the end of next month. "Things will be better next year," he insisted.

Hill, meanwhile, was still talking of his frustration. He said: "I got used to seeing my name at the top or near the top of the timesheets. Now I have to scroll down to page two to find it and that saps your oomph. So it's difficult, that I should push harder to make sure I don't slip further."

The Englishman, 37 in September, is adamant he still has another championship in him, given the opportunity. He has been linked with McLaren, Benetton, Prost, Sauber, and even Williams, but appears no nearer a deal and is unlikely to command such a huge return next time.

"When you've won 21 races and the championship, you don't want to settle for anything less. You want more. I tend to stay in the wings, one how has performed, one stage knows the need to be there. That's where I need to be," Hill said.

Whatever Hill's problems this year, it can be comforted in the knowledge that Williams' difficulties show is that it's not easy to win grands prix as it looks.

So how does he see the rest of his championship panning out this season? With both Schumacher and Villeneuve listening intently he settled for a diplomatic line: "I would say it's even."

Villeneuve's challenge, page 26

RFU embarrassed by Rowell speculation

Rugby Union
CHRIS HEWITT
reports from Sydney

Confusion is reigning once again and the Rugby Football Union, already staring down both barrels of the Cliff Brittle shotgun at today's annual general meeting, are likely to get a severe soaking. Less than 48 hours before England's desperately difficult one-off Test with Australia here, the beleaguered Twickenham power-brokers have conspired to undermine Jack Rowell's position as national coach in the most embarrassing possible circumstances.

Derek Morgan, chairman of the national playing committee, yesterday vehemently denied reports that Rowell was about to be replaced by Graham Henry, the tactical mastermind from New Zealand whose Auckland side claimed their second successive Super 12 title last month. At the same time, Don Rutherford, the RFU's technical director, was admitting holding talks with Henry, although he stressed that neither a formal job description nor a firm offer had been offered.

In the midst of all the shenanigans, Rowell was looking increasingly isolated, not to say bemused. His coaching contract does not expire until 31 August and understandably, he was not in the best of moods when Rutherford arrived in Sydney for tomorrow's Cook Cup match with the Wallabies.

Rutherford insisted his talks with Henry and a second senior Auckland coach, Maurice Trapp, had been merely exploratory. "We are looking to strengthen our coaching set-up," he said. "England have a good many representative sides and there may be a number of roles available." Whether that was sufficient to mollify Rowell remained a moot point.

In a desperate attempt at damage limitation the RFU last night issued a statement on Rutherford's behalf. "A professional game needs the best people involved," Rutherford was reported to have said. "Some will be English and some will not... but at the present time I do not believe the English culture is ready for a non-English coach."

Morgan was equally insistent that Rowell's position remained secure, if only in the shortest of short terms. "No one has been asked or authorised to make an approach to any other coach," he said, prompting the question as to why Rutherford had been in New Zealand in the first place. "No formal discussion of or decision on the coaching position will take place until the team and management return from Australia." As a denial, it was barely worth the effort. Henry has admitted receiving approaches from "outside New Zealand" and as England return home on Monday morning, developments could be extremely swift.

The most successful coach in the history of English club rugby, Rowell's record at international level also bears comparison with the best. But his reluctance to turn his back on business interests to take up the reins on a full-time basis leaves him vulnerable to the demands of the new professional age. Rowell believes he can square the circle, but the weight of influential opinion is against him.

Back in January, the RFU were forced to deny allegations of a plot to sideline their coach before the Five Nations Championship. This time, they will have to work doubly hard to reassure Rowell that he retains the faith of his employers. Thinking of England, page 29

Tyson vows to return 'in 1998'

Boxing

If there were ever any doubts that Mike Tyson intends to box again, he dispelled them yesterday when he stated his determination to be back in the ring, possibly as early as next year, after having his licence revoked by the Nevada Athletic Commission

for hitting Evander Holyfield's ears in a World Boxing Association title bout on 28 June.

But the British Boxing Board of Control believes that a year out of the sport would amount to little more than a slap on the wrist.

Simon Block, assistant general secretary of the BBBC, said: "The acid test will be at what

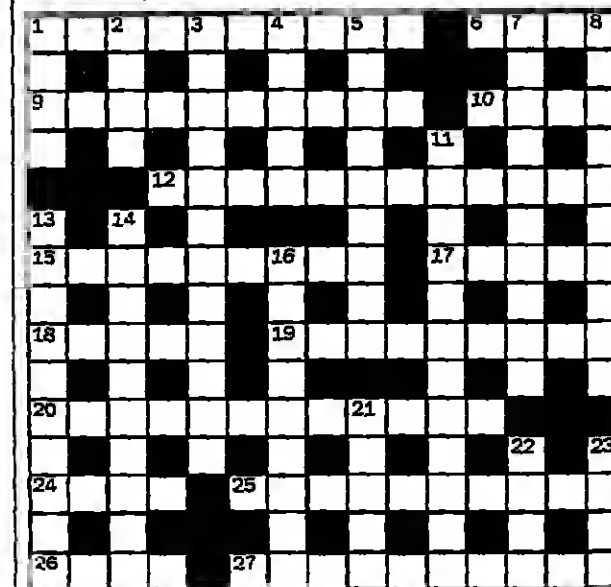
stage the Nevada Commission feel able to grant Mike Tyson a licence and I believe that if it is in a year's time there will be a feeling of disappointment around the boxing world."

"This was a major incident in a world heavyweight championship contest and a year out for a professional boxer is not a long time."

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3348, Friday 11 July

By Phil



Thursday's solution
1. A C G W E
2. P N A B E R
3. S H I N I N G N E T T I O
4. A S A T E
5. B U L L E Y S H A M R O C K
6. F I T
7. U N D E R B I R A Q U A D E
8. O F F E R M E
9. C H A S T E O V E R C O M E
10. A L I S
11. P R I V A T E R S I O N I A
12. F E G F E N E

- ACROSS**
- What makes chap successfully mature without problems? (11)
 - Contemptible creature backed masculine argument (4)
 - No laser in this US city, apparently (3,7)
 - Incline to be free of stolen goods, and not caught (4)
 - Dubiously handsome lot snatching Queen – who's then this? (4,2,6)
 - One's not willing to be automatically of benefit to them (4,2,3)
 - Runs nearly everything behind sport in the country (5)
 - Dislike to accept second in race (5)
 - Many supporters – I had to get in vehicle and remain standing around (9)
 - Is briefly used in horrible watery beers – this? (7,5)
 - Really my opinion should be prefaced by this (1-3)
 - Critique a chap – fellow from Scotland or from Central America (10)
 - Held back surprised cry about student artist (4)
 - More than one painting activity among whisky producers (5,5)
- DOWN**
- Mischief making's beginning in times (4)
 - Nothing currently has it (4)
 - Paradise that was once found in Downing Street? (6,2,4)
 - Advanced teacher taking the lead (5)
 - Lord of the manor has most of path – a depressing fact (9)
 - Expect too much of deliveries by rail? (10)
 - Modern composer has note on a register (10)
 - Northern fortification experienced crumbling in wars over friendly state, mostly (8,4)
 - Not a term applied to malfunctioning eyelids? (2,3,5)
 - Chop up various trees and a piano in anger (10)
 - Excitement over sharp action to operate motor-cycle (4,5)
 - Graduate detected in falsehood that turns up in modern communication (1,4)
 - Mother's abandoning the dog? That should cause a row (4)
 - Puts a stop to scraps (4)